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Editorial Note

THE papers that follow constitute a record of the proceedings of the Twentieth Conference of the Association. Written papers prepared in advance by the speakers have been reprinted in full. Careful reports of the discussions were taken, and summaries as accurate and complete as possible have been printed. The expert help of those members who prepared the reports for compilation of these summaries is gratefully acknowledged.

Reports are included (pages 101 to 104) regarding the work of the Aslib Microfilm Service, the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals, the National Central Library and the Inter-Allied Book Centre. For these we are indebted to the courtesy of Mrs. Lucia Moholy, Mr. Theodore Besterman, Mr. R. H. Hill and Mr. B. M. Headicar, respectively. Our thanks are also due to Mr. F. C. Mitchell, of the London Press Exchange, for the instructive Charts (pages 16 and 17) showing the Growth and Distribution of Aslib Membership.

An index to the contents of the Report is printed at the end. Copies of the Reports of seventeen previous Conferences are still available, but the Reports of the Second and Tenth Conference are out of print. The Fifth Report contains an index to the first five. The compilation of a cumulative index to the Proceedings to date is in hand and will, it is hoped, be completed in time for publication soon after this Report is issued.

These Reports are indexed in the Industrial Arts Index of the H. W. Wilson Company of New York.

52, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.1, 10 *December*, 1945

JAMES J. EATON
Hon. Editor

The Year's Work of Aslib, 1944-45

(*A report presented at the Annual General Meeting held at the Portland Hall on September 15th, 1945*).

In the history of Aslib 1944-45 will stand out as important for many reasons. Notes on the separate activities of the Association follow later in this report, but at the outset it should be stated that this was the period when, for the first time, the receipt of a grant marked Government recognition of its work. War conditions still slowed development, but the publication of a journal, one of the many schemes hitherto frustrated by lack of finance, now became possible. The *Journal of Documentation*, under the editorship of Mr. Theodore Besterman, began publication as from June, 1945. Aslib, born at the Conference held in 1924, had in fact come of age.

The President

Sir Frederick Kenyon, G.B.E., K.C.B., has kindly consented to stand for re-election as President for the year 1945-46. In this Aslib is fortunate, since there have been few presidents who have given more freely of their time and interest to the Association's affairs. Sir Frederick's wisdom and breadth of outlook and leadership in humanistic studies are particularly valuable now, at a time when the Association is eager to develop its activities so as fully to express the aims of its founders to promote the dissemination of knowledge in all its aspects. War tasks have inevitably and properly concentrated attention on the sciences and technologies. We need not forget, however, that, despite this compelling necessity, we have been able to initiate the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* and the *Journal*, both of which activities cover the full range of the Association's interests.

The Council and Committees

Nine meetings of the Council were held during the year. By its decision the Executive Committee, created to meet war-time conditions in 1940, was now re-elected, but a number of Committees were appointed to deal with the growing amount of detail now involved in Aslib's administration. Mr. Edward Carter was re-elected Chairman and Mr. Lancaster Jones was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Council. A full list of the Council for 1945–46 is printed on page 6: the names of those serving on Committees will be found below with a summary of their activities.

Finance and Membership

Those elected to serve on the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 1944-45 were as follow: Mr. E. Lancaster Jones (Chairman); Mr. Ivor B. N Evans, Mr. H. Hyams, Mr. E. R. McColvin, Miss A. M. Mostel, Mr. F. C Mitchell, Miss I. Shrigley and Mr. Paul White.

The audited accounts for the year ended June 30th, 1945, have been circulated to all members and will be presented for acceptance at the 1945 Annual General Meeting. This has been an important year financially, and members of the Association will be well satisfied to see that in this first year of the Government grant, administered through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Aslib has qualified for the substantial sum of £1,000 through the increase of subscriptions to the level of £1,500. The total of subscriptions has risen from £1,100 for the year 1943-44, for which there are two reasons. The membership has risen to 530 and the revised scale of subscriptions, introduced in 1944, has during the current year become operative for each class of member. It will be remembered that a minimum rate of £3 3*s*. for non-profit making institutions and a minimum of £5 5*s*. for profit-making organisations was agreed upon and this has proved to be a workable basis, resulting in only 25 resignations during the period under review. The increased turnover from £2,566 to over £4,000 is a striking indication of development in other ways.

Aslib has moved its premises to 52 Bloomsbury Street, where more adequate accommodation is available for its growing activity. This has meant an increase of rent from £137 to £370. Not only has this provided space for the extra secretarial work, and the Information section and Publications department, but has also allowed for the six Committees—Conference, Education, Finance, Information, Public Relations and Publications—to meet regularly on the premises without too much dislocation of general office work.

The reduced figure for the Library Training Courses is due to the fact that only two courses were held instead of three as in the previous year, and of these the second course did not end until the second week of July, 1945, and therefore is not fully represented in these accounts. In spite of these exceptional circumstances, and other problems due to war-time conditions, there is a balance in hand of £241 13*s*., an eminently satisfactory conclusion to a very notable financial year.

Conference

The following agreed to serve on the Conference and Programme Committee for 1944-45 : Professor R. S. Hutton (Chairman), Mr. D. V. Arnold, Mr. J. J. Eaton, Miss M. Gosset, Miss A. Lythgoe, Miss M. Shaw and Mr. G. Woledge. Rocket and flying bomb attacks on London during the autumn and winter discouraged the organisation of meetings, but the Nineteenth Conference, postponed from September, was eventually held successfully in December, 1944. It was held at the Royal Society during the week-end December 9 and 10 and over 200 delegates and guests attended.

Training Courses in Special Librarianship

In spite of flying bomb attacks, a week's intensive course of twelve lectures was organised in London in August, 1944, but since there had been inevitable interruptions during the lectures it was decided not to hold the examination at the end of the week. The ordinary course of twelve weekly lectures was not resumed till 1945. In the meantime, in accordance with the resolution passed at the 1944 Conference, the Education Committee was in touch with the Library Association concerning facilities for training in special librarianship. A number of meetings with representatives of the Library Association took place, and the Library Association's new syllabus was discussed in detail, particularly as it affected those who wished to work in special libraries. Moreover, in collaboration with the Library Association, a week's Study Group in Special Librarianship was planned for July, 1945, which proved to be highly successful, though any detailed notice of it must fall outside the period covered by this report. It is hoped that similar discussions may be held with the representatives of the University of London School of Librarianship when this resumes work.

Members of the Education Committee for 1944-45 were : Mr. E. R. McColvin (Chairman), Dr. W. Bonser, Miss M. Couldrey, Mr. B. Fullman, Dr. P. S. Hudson and Miss I. Shrigley.

Publications

The following agreed to serve on the Publications and Editorial Committee for 1944-45 : Mr. Theodore Besterman (General Editor and Chairman), Mr. J. J. Eaton (Hon. Editor *Conference Report*), Mr. B. Agard Evans (Hon. Editor *Aslib Information*), Mr. B. Fullman, Miss A. M. Mostel (Hon. Secretary to the Committee), Dr. R. S. Schultze (Hon. Editor *Book List*). Eleven meetings were held and, despite printing delays and other difficulties inseparable from war conditions, a considerable amount of work was achieved.

The *Journal of Documentation*, edited by Mr. Theodore Besterman, was inaugurated and the copy prepared and ready for publication by June 1. Unforeseen circumstances, such as the heavy demands on the printers in connection with the General Election, and the return of many workers to London, delayed printing, but the first issue appeared in July, 1945.

The *Aslib Book List*, under the guidance of Dr. R. S. Schultze, after some delays in 1944 which were the legacy of difficult conditions earlier in the year, was reformed both in typography and punctuality of issue. Non-member subscriptions to the *Book List* now number 424, including 230 copies distributed through the British Council. Aslib has continued to contribute lists of British books on science (other than medicine), technology, architecture and town planning to the monthly publication, *British Book News*, which is distributed abroad and to the Empire.

An alphabetical subject and author *Index to the Book List* for Vols. I—IX (1935-1944) has been compiled for the Committee by Dr. Alfred Loewenberg and is in the hands of the printer.

The quarterly bulletin *Aslib Information* continues to be edited by Mr. B. Agard Evans and has now expanded to the limits possible under the present restriction of paper supplies. When opportunity permits, there are plans for considerable enlargement of this useful little organ of communication between members.

Mr. J. E. Wright's *Manual on the Technique of Special Librarianship* was completed in 1944, but was subject to the usual exasperating delays in printing. It was published in June, 1945, and is in steady demand.

The preliminary steps in the compilation of a *Directory of Medical Libraries and Sources of Information* has been in the hands of Mr. Le Fanu of the Royal College of Surgeons. The Publications Committee has decided to recommend the publication of the data so far collected in the series of *Aslib War-time Guides* pending the completion of the fuller version, which cannot be achieved until the shortage of staff and other abnormal conditions in the libraries make possible a closer assessment of the materials contained therein. It is hoped to push forward with the compilation of other Guides in the near future.

A new edition of the *Select List of Standard British Scientific and Technical Books*, revised and enlarged to correspond with subjects covered by the *Book List*, is in active preparation.

Lastly, but by no means least, the Committee has been responsible for the editing of a guide to *British Sources of Information*, commissioned by the British Council for the use of libraries overseas. This will consist of Part I, including the lists of societies, periodicals and bibliographies together with a survey of the Library system of Great Britain, etc. Part II, to be published later, will include basic lists of British books, grouped under broad subject headings.

Public Relations

A Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Mitchell to co-ordinate steps that might be taken to make Aslib better known both to members and to non-members. The great diversity of Aslib's work and different ways in which it can meet the needs of different types of organisations make it both difficult to select any one of its functions for publicity or to explain its potential usefulness simply and concisely. Aslib needs to extend its membership, but advertising in the ordinary sense of the word will never achieve this satisfactorily. The Committee's activities have therefore been directed towards the furthering of publicity for Aslib's publications and the compilation of data for a handbook which it is hoped will explain just what Aslib can do and how it can do it. The Committee—members of which besides the Chairman are : Mr. Ivor B. N. Evans, Mr. B. Agard Evans, Miss M. Haines, Mr. F. Hughes and Mr. E. N. Simons—also supervised the sale of advertising space in the *Report of the Conference Proceedings* and in the new *Journal*, gave advice on the preparation of statistical data for display, and dealt with similar matters.

Information Section

The Enquiry Bureau and its related activities have developed so far that it was thought wise to appoint a Committee which should make these its special interest. The members of the Committee for 1944-45 include Mr. H. Dowden

(Chairman), Miss M. Couldrey, Mr. H. R. Hill, Mr. H. Hyams, Miss E. W. Parker and Mr. H. Pledge. They have under active consideration the various problems of the organisation of the Information services, and amongst other things it is the hope of this Committee that Aslib's collection of reference books may soon be greatly increased, since it is at present inadequate to meet the needs of the Association. About 1,500 enquiries were received during the year.

The Index of Translations grows steadily, though still slowly, and the Register of Specialist Translators provides valuable contacts on those occasions when a thorough knowledge of the subject as well as of the language is required. The indexes showing the location of war-time issues of periodicals from Europe are being kept up to date and are constantly consulted. These will provide invaluable data when the problems of filling the gaps in library holdings can be seriously considered. Futhermore, Aslib has collaborated actively with the Library Association and the National Central Library in the compilation of a list of American periodicals missing in transit or through enemy action during recent years. This is the first step in a scheme by which it is hoped that some replacements may be obtainable through American library co-operation, even when the issues in question are now out of print.

British Union Catalogue of Periodicals

The scheme for a Union Catalogue of Periodicals in British Libraries arose from Mr. Besterman's paper given at the Conference of 1942. As noted in last year's Report, the Rockefeller Foundation's financial support enabled work on this to be begun with Mr. Theodore Besterman as Editor and Executive Officer. A fuller report on the progress of the work will be found on pages 102–3.

Aslib Microfilm Service

The Aslib Microfilm Service—Director Mrs. Lucia Moholy, A.R.P.S.—has continued to work at the Victoria and Albert Museum during the past twelve months. A fuller report of its activities will be found on pages 101–2, but it may be noted here that it was at the Aslib Microfilm Service that Mr. Eugene Power demonstrated the new microfilm projector for use in hospitals*. This projects an image of the book on the ceiling, thus permitting a disabled person to read with a facility otherwise impossible.

Collaboration With Other Organisations

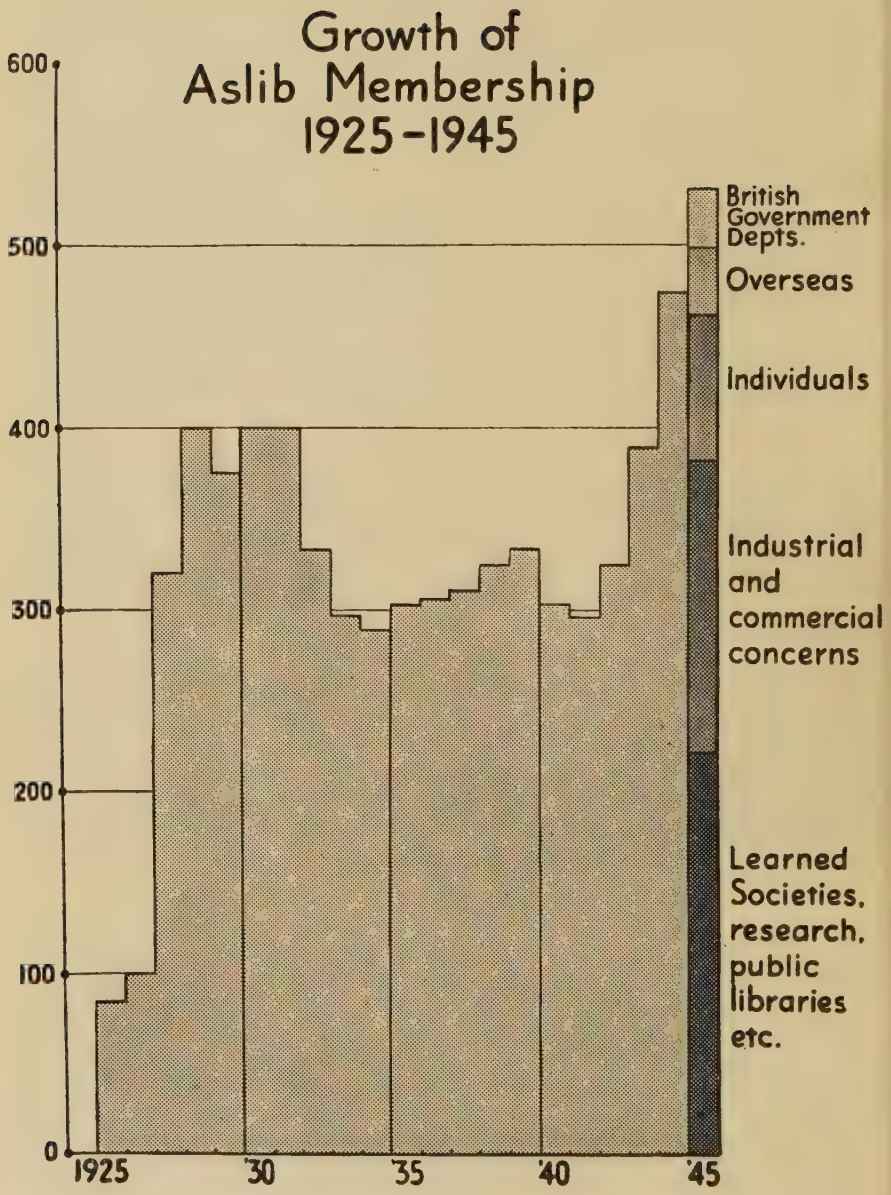
The preparation of the new abridged edition of the Universal Decimal Classification is now wholly in the hands of the British Standards Institution, together with the continued publication of the full English translation. Aslib is, however, represented on the Committees supervising this work and is actively interested in the project.

Aslib is also represented on the Committees responsible for directing the policy of the Inter-allied Book Centre, fuller particulars of which will be found on page 104.

In closing this record of Aslib's work during the past year, we gratefully pay tribute to all those friends whose faith and support helped Aslib through the difficult war years and whose confidence will, we hope, be repaid by future developments.

Edward Carter
Irene Shrigley
E. M. R. Ditmas

* Fully described on pages 82–3—Ed.



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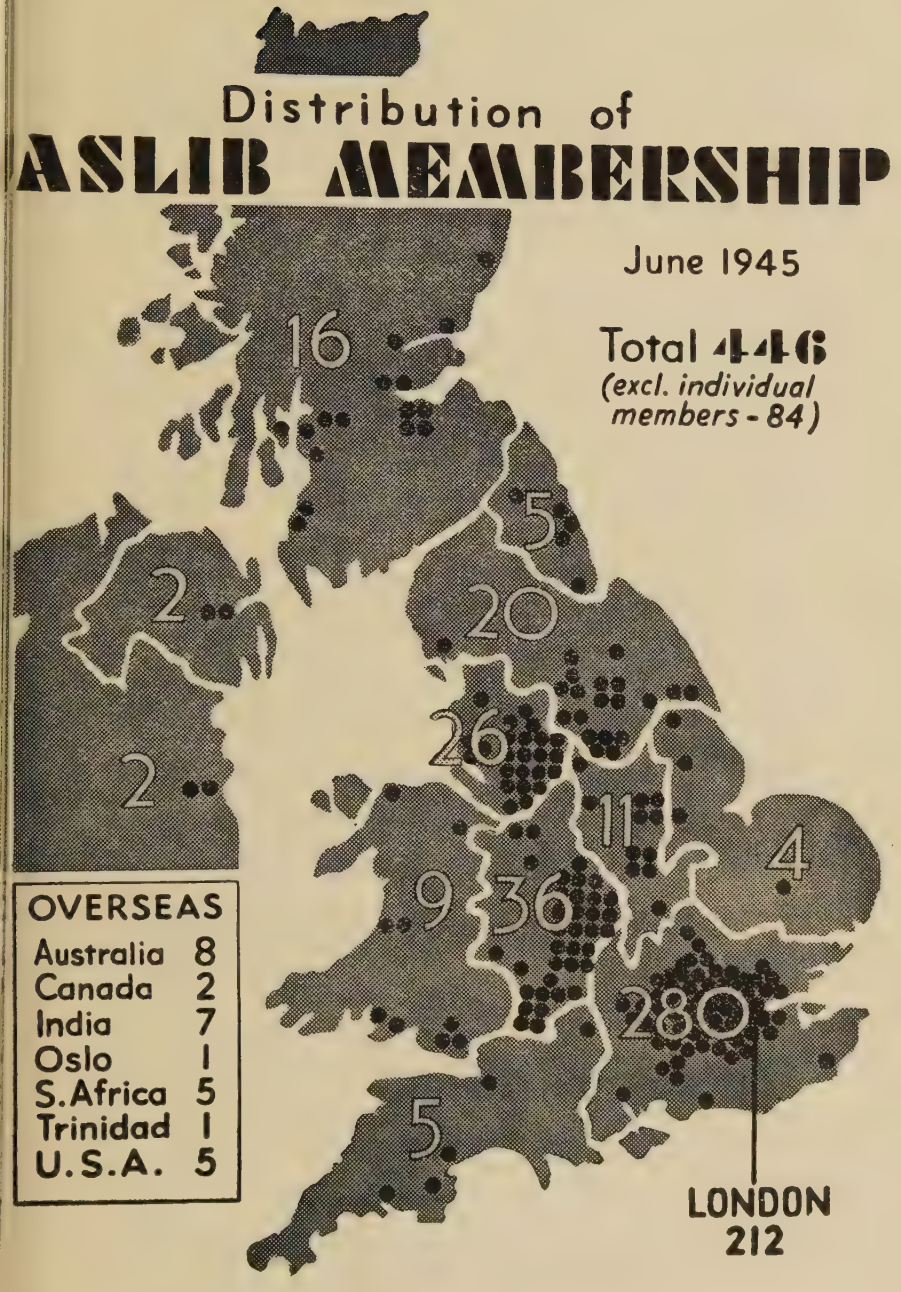

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Information Service as an Essential in the Progress of Science

By J. D. BERNAL, F.R.S., M.A.
Professor of Physics, Birkbeck College

The subject of my address is primarily the user's side of library service in relation to research. The world of the scientific research worker and the world of the librarian have, in my opinion, been too far apart in the past. Librarians have striven with very good will to give the scientific research worker the best service they could, but they have not had much assistance in finding out what it was that the research worker needed. At the same time the research worker has never been able to make the fullest use of the special library, largely because of his ignorance of the possibilities of recent developments in library technique. Many research workers do their own library work, often in an antiquated way, or discover for themselves many of the techniques already long known in the library world.

The experience of the war has taught a very large number of scientists the vital place of an efficient information service. The much wider range over which research was carried out and the necessity to familiarise oneself with entirely novel subjects, has put a premium on information gained from libraries rather than from slowly acquired experience and casual conversation. In the course of this we have come to realise that the unity and complexity of science has grown to such a degree, that the library and information service has become a key to conscious progress along the whole front of advancing knowledge. For it to be effective, however, it is necessary that the purpose and activity of library service should change from what might be called a negative to a positive activity. Old libraries were conceived as depositories of knowledge: the modern library should be a distributor and organiser of knowledge.

The two aims, which, in my opinion, the modern information service should set itself, are first to secure that the right information in the right form is sent to the right people and, second, to arrange that facts of however diverse origin which may bear on any particular topic should be correlated for the study of that topic. These may be called the DISTRIBUTIVE and INTEGRATIVE aspects of library service. They do not supersede the older function of libraries of acting as a storehouse for all recorded knowledge, available to all seekers for such knowledge, but they do supplement them. They inevitably involve a very great increase in the demands put on the library service.

The distributive function of special libraries is by no means as simple as it sounds. The factor that must increasingly be taken into account is that while the annual increment of new knowledge in the whole field of science and in any particular field is rapidly increasing, the capacity for assimilating knowledge of each individual research worker is absolutely limited and has already in many cases reached its limit. If any research worker were to receive all the facts relevant to his work in the form in which those facts were originally put out, he would literally not have the time to read the material coming to him, much less to absorb it. Actually the position is far worse than this. At present the research worker receives in journals and books a very large number of facts that are of no use to him at all but which have to be ploughed through in order to find those which are of use, and at the same time many relevant facts never reach him in any form. Now the escape tried earlier from this state of affairs, that of specialising in ever narrowing fields in the hope of acquiring all the information available from that field, has proved both impossible and dangerous. We do not want over-specialisation; what we do want is an information service which will avoid the necessity for unnecessary specialisation. This means putting a great deal more work into the handling of material between one research worker and another. It involves much boiling down and simplifying as well as a great deal of re-arrangement and correlating of material. This

is, of course, part of the second integrative function which I have suggested should be aimed at by the modern librarian.

Now here we touch on a fundamental difficulty. In the past it was possible, up to a point, for the librarian to handle printed matter in a somewhat mechanical way by title and catalogue number: he only needed to know enough of the matter he was handling to be able to catalogue it correctly. What I suggest is needed in the future, is that the librarian should be master of the material itself and that he be in a position to present it in forms different from those in which he receives it. Now the objection may be made that this is asking far too much —indeed, asking more of the librarian than of the research worker. The research worker is only expected to understand one subject, but the librarian all subjects. I agree that this is an impossible demand, but I do not think it is implied by the requirements I have indicated. In my opinion it is not the librarian's function himself to condense and re-allocate the material he deals with; it is his function rather to organise that condensation and re-allocation through the research workers themselves. In other words, it is the librarian's job, not merely to accept material as sent to him, but to demand that the material be presented in the appropriate forms for passing on. I shall later give more detailed suggestions as to how this can be done, but it is clear that it implies a very much closer relation between the librarian and the research worker than has existed in the past. It also implies, of course, a closer relation between the function of the librarian and the function of the publisher, both of periodicals and of books. In fact the whole of scientific communications between scientists, and between them and the technical and lay public, is one unified subject. The separation between the business of producing printed matter, storing it and distributing it, has been the curse of the learned world long before the printing press was invented. But what was tolerable when it was difficult for the learned man to find enough that was worth his while to read, has now become, under the enormous mass of published material, a totally intolerable position, one whose continuance threatens the whole progress of knowledge.

A very good example of this can be seen by the experience of the war. In the field of war science, the information services played an enormously important role. During the war, research was immensely speeded up and carried out on a much larger scale than had ever been conceived before. It was also involved in the serious restrictions of a complicated and graded security system. The development of information services was largely *ad hoc*, and though it never met the full requirements of the situation, it had before the end of the war reached a sufficiently advanced stage to indicate what a practical, ideal organisation should be.

The great curse of technical information in the war was departmentalism. To speak of England alone, each of the Ministries—and many of the departments inside the Ministries—had their own libraries and information service. When these proved inadequate, as they nearly always did, enterprising persons set up their own information services, often in almost complete ignorance of what already existed. An effort was made in the middle of the war to reduce this chaos, but I regret to say that it was sternly resisted by the older bodies and resulted only in an enquiry by the Ministry of Production which revealed the following fact: that there existed no list in Government offices or in any Ministry, of what libraries or information services were available in the Ministries. Research was able to indicate the existence of some sixty of these, but this may not have been complete. There were, for example, five bodies which collected information on tanks, and none of these knew of the existence of all the others. Right to the end of the war the unfortunate technical officer had to read through the separate lists of requisitions to the libraries of three to five Ministries, all containing very largely the same papers differently catalogued and with no uniform system of reference—and, in most cases, with no indication of the contents of the papers. A paper might be, for instance, " Progress and Report of the B.17 Committee,"

where quasi-omniscience would be required even to know what matters they referred to. That the system worked at all is somewhat of a miracle, but that it should be considered a perfect one, is an even greater one. Yet this was the view of many of the senior librarians who saw no reason for any change. The most senior of all expressed his view that in technical matters there was never any difficulty in obtaining the required information as long as one knew whom to ask for it! This is, of course, an extreme expression of what might be called the personal view of exchange of information which is quite adequate for a small society of people who all belong to the same clubs and are apt to talk shop, but even when it works it is, under modern conditions, a serious waste of brain power. It depends on the existence of a small number of people with long experience and retentive memories who are expected to spend a great proportion of their time in answering questions on matters of information which could just as easily be obtained by an even moderately efficient library service. It rather reminds one of the habits of certain tropical ants where some workers are used exclusively as kind of living honeypots for the community.

Nevertheless, in spite of these somewhat varying deficiencies, the information services in the War Ministries proved to be absolutely invaluable, particularly as military affairs required contributions from a large number of widely separated types of information. Particular success in this field was scored by the Information Service of the American Office of Scientific Research and Development and by that of the British Commonwealth Scientific Office in Washington.

In war science it was very often necessary to produce the same material in a large number of different forms suitable, for instance, for production engineers, military technicians and operational soldiers. This involved a considerable effort on the part of the scientific and records staffs employed on it, though well worth the trouble. Simplified presentation, with an eye always to the particular reader or user, often brings a good deal more out of the material than an accurate but formal scientific presentation. It was also necessary at frequent intervals to provide summaries indicating the position to date. Thus it was usually possible, without too much loss of time, to keep permanently up to date in a large number of fields simultaneously. These lessons of the war should not be lost in peace-time information services. If the army thought it worth while to set aside considerable personnel and printing facilities for this purpose, when there was an acute demand for both, there is even stronger reason for the adequate development of the information services in peace.

When we come to consider in greater detail the type of information service required for the furthering of scientific research, it becomes apparent immediately that it is not a matter of detailed improvement of existing organisations, which may well indeed make things worse rather than better by blocking the way to more radical change. Only a thorough recasting of the whole system with the conscious aim of satisfying the two requirements mentioned at the outset, that is, a positive distribution and the conscious integration of information, will suffice. Fortunately the present period of rehabilitation after the war, the enormous gaps left by six years interruption of science and the destruction of European and particularly German science, furnishes both the necessity and the opportunity for a new start, while the formation of new international cultural bodies such as the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organisation, provides a means for carrying it out.

Any scheme for better information facilities in science must necessarily cover publication as much as library work. To arrive at such a scheme would itself require fairly detailed consultation between scientists, librarians, editors and publishers, and it is hoped that some such discussions will be organised in the near future.* In the meantime we can sketch out a rough plan of the type of organisation that would seem to satisfy the major requirements.

Scientific communications have come to take place through a number of

* See also report of discussion on a Scheme for the Reform of Scientific Publications, page 64—Ed.

printed units of different scope and function, ranging from large and quasi-permanent publications such as handbooks, through monographs, theses, papers down to letters and notes. Parallel with these primary publications are a number of secondary ones, reviews of books, abstracts, progress reviews, reports of lectures and science news. All these have their different and fairly distinct functions and it is unlikely that we can dispense with any of them. On the other hand it will be necessary to see that they are produced in a more orderly manner so as to avoid what exists at present to an enormous degree —both duplication and gaps.

The primary unit in scientific publication is the individual scientific paper dealing comprehensively with one topic : books and other larger units may be considered as an accumulation of papers, while notes and letters are papers in embryo. The organisation of publication and recording should therefore centre, in my opinion, on that of the scientific paper. It will be noticed that in the list given, there is no mention of what has been in the past the most important means of scientific publication, the scientific journal. Now the journal, in my opinion, and in that of many other scientists, has ceased to be a really satisfactory means of distributing scientific information. Each number consists essentially of a number of papers which have in common only the fact that they were submitted at the same time, and little other material except occasional abstracts and reviews which ought, in my opinion, to be published elsewhere. The result of this method of publication is that scientists who take journals are presented with possibly one paper in which they are interested, together with twenty or thirty that do not concern them. At the same time, because, for reasons of economy, they cannot take all the journals affecting their own field, they are obliged to make other shifts to get the rest of their material or go without it.

One method which has come into vogue, and itself shows the failure of the present system, is the circularising of individual reprints. This is done in the most clumsy and expensive method by the research workers themselves who are rarely able to afford to send reprints to all those who would be interested, even if they knew where they were. Another is the recourse to libraries, which, because they can hardly ever take more than one number of each journal, and because the study of a single paper requires considerable time, leads to very serious delays. Of course, photostat and microfilm methods could to a certain extent mitigate this nuisance, but no serious mitigation is possible without complete recasting.

Now such recasting is possible, and, indeed, a fairly detailed scheme for doing so has already been put forward by a group of the members of the Association of Scientific Workers, partly on the basis of suggestions put forward by Dr. N. W. Pirie in the *Journal of Documentation,* Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 26. They base themselves on the fact that the great majority of scientific journals are produced for learned societies. In many cases these societies, particularly the smaller ones, publish journals very largely because it is only in this way that they may obtain by exchange the journals of other societies. This results, of course, in a vast multiplicity of scientific journals of which, in 1930, there were already 33,000 more or less regularly published.

In the proposed scheme, each country would have a centre of scientific publication and exchange which would receive from societies papers already passed by referees as suitable for publication and lists of members to whom papers from any part of the world on specified subjects or groups of subjects, should be sent. The national centres would act as clearing houses for these papers, arranging for their internal distribution and sending others in blocks in appropriate numbers to the clearing houses in other countries for distribution to the scientists there. Payment of a subscription to one society would entitle the subscriber to the services of the whole organisation. It is not necessary, though it may very well be possible, for such a system to be economically self-supporting, but it is clear that such a unified system could make a very good claim for governmental support.

A similar service, but with a much wider network, could be organised for science abstracts, which would be prepared once and for all by the author and verified by his own scientific society. It might also be possible to publish a number of abstracts from papers of value to several fields of science, for distribution in such fields. All abstracts would be produced in a form suitable for modern filing systems. Similarly, the scientific societies would make themselves responsible for the production of monographs and text books, though leaving wide freedom for original work of an unorthodox kind.

It is clear that this scheme requires a great deal more working out, but I am convinced it is perfectly feasible and that unless something like this is done, the literature of scientific research will be choked by its own productivity.

It is particularly important that the scheme should start from the outset on an international basis. If some countries stick to the old system, the value of the new would be very largely lost. The danger is, of course, that energetic scientists and librarians, and the more active centres of research such as the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union, feeling the excessive strain of the present totally inadequate system of information, will start on their own developing comprehensive systems. It is also to be feared that this may happen even inside particular countries through the independent action of scientific societies. It is very much the responsibility of librarians to urge on scientific societies and governments the folly of such courses. They alone are able to appreciate the need for order and uniformity in the presentation and distribution of information.

I have said little in this address on the possibilities of the full resources of modern library technical aids such as microfilm, Hollerith or photo-electric indexing devices. This is largely because of my lack of any intimate experience of them. I am convinced, however, that they are due for an extremely rapid period of development and may, indeed, completely supersede many methods we have at present for transmitting information. In particular the transmission of visual and aural impressions of experiments by micro-cinema, may make a great deal of printed matter unnecessary, while the possibilities of television may have an equally profound effect on the personal contact between scientists. We can imagine, for instance, a complex experiment carried out by four or five operators simultaneously in different parts of the world.

All these are developments for the future, but immediately before us lies the task of putting our house in order after the end of this period of destruction and preparing for the much greater demands of the new era ushered in by atomic power. Here is a task which should occupy the special librarians in conjunction with the scientists during the years of rehabilitation after the war.

The American Library in London

By DR. RICHARD H. HEINDEL

Director of the American Library; since August 1945, Special Adviser to the Office of Public Affairs, Department of State

It can be argued that as our arms, destinies, and hopes have merged together these past four years, our opportunities to follow each other's knowledge, experience, and expression as contained in writings have decreased. The Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux wisely chose this occasion to discuss the communication with the United States, and to explore again the role of libraries as a social mechanism which can help with a major problem of the next fifty years—improving the free access to the entire body of knowledge, easily, quickly, and at the right time to persons needing it most. But your officers, in accord with the gracious acceptance of the American Library by the British community, have asked me to talk about this institution. They have taken a risk in doing so because of my enthusiasm, but I shall try to relate this modest place, this "utility" library, to a bigger world.

The American Library, established in December, 1942, by the Office of War Information in the U.S. Embassy, was the first official library established by the U.S. Government outside the continental United States. Consequently, it has been a pilot project for other OWI libraries and information centers throughout the world. It may also be the first to be taken over by the Department of State as the war agency begins to contract. As the first library energetically open to the public in any embassy anywhere in the world, it has become a new element in the conduct of foreign relations.

The Library is not running on ideas or methods unfamiliar to many librarians and public relations experts. It is somewhat like a "specialized" library that gives personal service to a varied clientele from a collection that is "specialized" to the extent that it is confined primarily to the documentation produced in the United States. It had to be more than a reading room or a lending library.

The Library is visited by about 1,100 persons a month and performs in the same period about 2,200 individual services. It now has among its constant users all branches of the U.S. Government and all British and other government agencies and sub-divisions in Great Britain. It has built relations with about 800 organizations and societies and 350 business firms, and with about 175 libraries. It has reached most of the education system. Nearly all of the daily, Sunday, and provincial press have become regular usuers of the Library, and almost all magazines, including the trade and technical press. Perhaps here more than anywhere else, it has been shown how much library resources can become source material for current comment if some effort is made to assist the publications.

It should be explained that the staff examines nearly every page and item which comes into the Library with this question in mind—What four or five persons in Great Britain should be notified immediately that such and such is here, and who can make the most use of it? It is primarily a reference library, but some 1,400 items a month go out under a system of controlled, short loans to institutions and individuals wherever this is mutually advantageous or necessary.

This sort of service—not unlike that performed by company librarians for their directors—has created a large, influential clientele in nearly every field of activity. Another 1,500 spare items, most of which are received by the Library free of charge, are sent each month to key groups and individuals interested in the subjects covered.

By the end of 1944, the collection included some 8,000 books (mostly with

imprints later than 1939), 10,000 documents and pamphlets, and more than 550 American periodicals. Even in peace-time, there are definite limits to the desirable size of an outpost library. Possibly the best method is to extract a full use of the collections over a year or so, then, so long as the flow of incoming material is good, many items might be turned over to the most appropriate recipients who could put them to the greatest permanent use. The Library tries to assist and improve the flow of materials to other quarters, not to displace or divert these channels or the great, historic collections.

Let us examine in more detail the publications from the United States.

General and trade and technical periodicals form the two major classes of the American magazines received. Both reflect less war-time austerity in size, staff, content, and illustrations than comparable British periodicals. The flow of these to important points has not been so satisfactory as one might imagine. Often conscientious students of American opinion have not seen a sufficient sampling of our magazines of controversy and opinion. Our trade journals may have an added appeal because they seem to reflect the fuller reporting which is often described by foreigners as a characteristic of American industry. As with documents, American magazines are a very rich mine that requires more digging than can be expected; abstracting and indexes may help a few, but someone like a traffic manager has here a job to do for some years to come.

Even at home, the range and location of official publications of the Federal Government are bewildering; if to this we add the many significant items from the forty-eight States we have a major bibliographical problem. Many types of documents have not been much used, e.g., hearings before Congress, court reports, studies about other countries, and so on. Federal documents are not copyrighted, which means greater freedom of use overseas.

Arrangements have not been such as to make these inexpensive documents easy for the American to buy. This makes even more interesting the procedure whereby His Majesty's Stationery Office will act as a sales agent for the publications of the Government Printing Office, with the Library acting in the capacity of professional adviser. It has been our experience that if one studies local needs sufficiently, almost every government document has some meaning overseas.

The wide range and hidden wealth of unofficial pamphlets, documents, reports, and the like require even more attention and are difficult to exploit fully. These categories have never been handled by commercial agents because of little hope of profit, and it is hard to see how the machinery can be improved in the future. It is often the ten-page mimeograph report which, properly used, stimulates a healthful two-way exchange. In using such documents, full explanations are needed to guide the foreign users to place such publications in correct perspective.

Perhaps our book collection is most useful to libraries, researchers, literary agents, importers, and publishers who serve in a long-term way. The selection of books for purchase and publishing overseas has always seemed to me to be about as haphazard as the history of translations, and anything which can assist or stimulate will help the publishing industry, the public, nay, even the creative writers, on both sides of the Atlantic.

Our principles of selection are usefulness (not just the first, obvious use), the meeting of special needs, anticipation of upcoming topics, and economy. The resources have never been described by us as necessarily "representative" or "the best," but a strong claim could be made for these two adjectives.

It is not the intent of this paper to comment on British library collections and services respecting American documentation, nor on the trends as we have seen them in the American Library. Such materials are being referred to for increasingly serious purposes, and I believe there will hereafter be more demands on you for American data. The subject fields of military affairs, industry, economics, science, education, international relations, politics, and American opinions have attracted more attention than art, music, or literature, but not

much more than the very broad aspects of American life which might be classified as history.

What is more important than these details is that behind the Library has been a philosophy of operation. There were many war tasks that had to be performed by the Library. All of them fit in with the proposition that we lay before a free nation what a free nation is thinking, doing, and writing, The more we know and understand one another, the better for all concerned. The Library has from the first developed with the benefit of the co-operation of many non-government agencies at home and abroad; without such relationships no amount of government support would help us.

I am keenly disappointed that I am not present with you to-day. It was with this group that I wanted to raise many questions because at this time many governments are considering the evolution of their war-time information agencies, and much is being said about foreign publicity, and public and cultural relations, and intellectual co-operation.* And those who have books and libraries on their minds have much to teach on these subjects. But I should like to make a few hasty observations which may elicit some opinions.

Many outpost libraries were born of the war, but it seems clear that they are likely to be even more valuable in peace. So long as the policy of operation is broad and honest, many national objectives can be obtained which are at the same time consonant with international goals. Such libraries, if they remain flexible and dynamic, are convenient points for many services which are not alien to effective domestic libraries. They are agencies which can and must draw upon the intense activities of the library, professional, and scientific associations of both countries. They are one type of operation in a framework of international information programs and intellectual co-operation, and no one should go unanswered who minimizes the practical, working base they give to real co-operation and the possibilities of sharing in any international research and bibliographical enterprises.

Every outpost library will, within two or three months, begin to have a different personality; otherwise it may not be fitting into the map of the country. The users will make the library; hence every care should be taken to see that the clientele represents comprehensive social and professional interests.

These overseas libraries exert influences within the country of origin and the foreign country. They are devices that can help to appraise foreign documentation for home use, thus helping a two-way exchange process about which they must learn anyway in the efficient conduct of their day's primary business.

Although the returns in service and understanding are great per dollar invested, these libraries do cost money which in these coming years will be a charge on the national income. In justifying, and, so far, in receiving these funds, the significance of libraries in general has been carried to the people and has been raised to a new and honorable prestige, fit to be considered along with the dramatic effectiveness of movies, newspapers, and radio. Further, if any one country maintains a fairly large number of such outposts, there will be many opportunities for co-operative enterprises in the central servicing organization, e.g., in exploring the possible future of micro-cards.

I think the staff needs of these libraries may force all of us to re-examine the combinations of training and talents wanted by libraries. We might be seeking what is a new "career" and yet find that positions such as these are of the very kind that should not be made "career" posts. It may be a new or rare species we will want; librarians-information specialists plus, plus a sympathetic understanding of both countries, a knowledge of the articulate groups, more than a passing familiarity with fields of scholarship, a sense of public relations,

* For further details on these subjects, see speaker's *The American Impact on Great Britain* (Philadelphia, 1940); "The War and Post War Integration of Research Activities in the U.S.," *Agenda*, May, 1943; "An Outpost Library at Work," *Library Journal*, Dec. 1, 1943. See also Sept., 1944 issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science devoted to "International Frontiers in Education."

an infinite capacity for work and imagination, and an understanding of the modern means of communications. Such a person should have a high professional position, without being hampered by an official vocabulary, for it is just as difficult to explain the varied manifestations of American life and thought as it is to convey our policy or forward political and commercial negotiations. He must be moved by, and allowed to believe in, the values of the diffusion of knowledge. He can make errors of reference, but in the proper milieu these need not be judged as diplomatic blunders.

An argument against such overseas work takes the brutal form: Do you want to see in each country of the world forty or fifty special reference libraries run by their respective countries? I don't think this will happen, but one might be flippant and suggest that if they were run in the spirit mentioned above, it might be a most remarkable experiment indeed, and not hostile to private or united nations' efforts. I have forgotten who said that one can no more improve the documentation of the world than the standard of living without some disturbance! But I doubt whether this audience would worry about this remark.

Perhaps the time is not far away, when the people of the world, partly through their governments, will integrate a library service on a par with other elements in their overseas representations. By so doing, they will in countless ways be helping themselves and their allies. The concluding point is that libraries (or should we stress the human element—librarians?) can view the years ahead with a renewed sense of service, vigour, and imagination.

Some Guides to U.S.A. Publications

A List prepared by Dr. R. H. HEINDEL

The selected items listed below, if scanned regularly, enable one to follow a very large portion of American publications. With the exception of No. 12, all these items are available for use at the American Library in London.

1. **Agricultural Index**: SUBJECT INDEX TO A SELECTED LIST OF AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS AND BULLETINS. Wilson, New York, N.Y. Service basis.

A subject index to the contents of over 110 periodicals in the field of agriculture and its allied subjects; also many agricultural books, bulletins, pamphlets and reports. Current service is kept up-to-date by monthly issues and annual volumes, replaced by three-year cumulations.

2. **American Library Association**: BOOKLIST; A GUIDE TO NEW BOOKS. A.L.A., Chicago. $3.00 per year. A semi-monthly guide to current books, first published in 1905.

Arranged by Dewey Classification giving the Library of Congress card number, suggested subject headings and a critical note. A selection of from 200 to 300 outstanding books of the year.

3. **Art Index.** Wilson. Service basis.

Began in 1929. Indexes 159 periodicals, museum bulletins, annuals, etc.

4. **Ayer, N. W., Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals.** N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia, Pa., 1944, $17.50.

A guide to publications printed in the U.S. and possessions, Canada, Bermuda, Cuba and the West Indies. Descriptions of the publications, the states, cities and towns in which they are published; and 380 classified lists. Published annually.

5. **Bibliographic Index :** A CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES, 1938–42. Wilson. Service basis.

A quarterly subject index, with annual and five year cumulations, to current bibliographies, including those published separately as books and pamphlets, and those published as parts of books, pamphlets and periodical articles. Began in 1938.

6. **Book Review Digest.** Wilson. Service basis.

First published for the year 1905. Published monthly except February and July, with cumulations in June and October and an annual cumulation in February. Five year cumulative index have been issued since 1921. A digest and index of selected book reviews in over fifty English and American periodicals, principally general in character.

7. **Children's Catalog.** Wilson. 1040, sixth edition. Service basis.

A dictionary catalog of 4,200 books with analytical entries for 910 books and classified list indicating subject headings. Supplements. Part of Standard Catalog series.

8. **Cumulative Book Index :** A WORLD LIST OF BOOKS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. Wilson. Service basis.

Supplements the *United States Catalog*, which began in 1898. In 1928 the U.S. Catalog was discontinued with the publication of a List of Books in Print January 1st, 1928. Since that date the service has been continued with the *Cumulative Book Index*. Published monthly with annual and five year cumulations.

9. **Educational Film Catalog.** Wilson. Service basis. Monthly.

Part 1 is an all inclusive title list; Part 2 is a selected list of recommended films. Part of Standard Catalog Series.

10. **Education Index :** A CUMULATIVE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT INDEX TO A SELECTED LIST OF EDUCATIONAL PERIODICALS, BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. Wilson. Service basis.

Began in January, 1929. Indexes 150 periodicals (146 in English, 4 foreign). Articles in general are indexed under both author and subject or subjects.

11. **Engineering Index :** 29 West 39th Street, New York.

Subject and author indexes of normally 50,000 articles appearing in some 2,000 journals published in twenty different countries. Annual volumes $50, also weekly card service subscriptions to any of 282 divisions.

12. **Index Medicus :** A QUARTERLY CLASSIFIED RECORD OF THE CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE OF THE WORLD, 1879. Chicago, Ill. American Medical Association. $8.00 per year.

The standard current bibliography of medicine. Indexes periodical articles as well as the new book literature of the subject.

13. **Industrial Arts Index, 1913 :** SUBJECT INDEX TO A SELECTED LIST OF ENGINEERING, TRADE AND BUSINESS PERIODICALS, BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. Wilson. Service basis.

Monthly index, cumulating throughout the year, with the December number forming an annual cumulation.

14. **International Index to Periodicals.** Wilson. Service basis.

An international author and subject index to periodicals devoted to pure science and the humanities. Subjects include : astronomy, general science, geography, geology, anthropology, philology, literature, paleonthology, religion, philosophy, law, mathematics, sociology, history, archeology, economics, political science, physics and zoology. Issued six times a year with frequent cumulations and an annual volume in March.

15. **Public Affairs Information Service.** *Bulletin* published weekly; cumulated five times a year. 1944 Annual contains 741 pages.

Cooperatively published. $100 per annum. 11 West 40th Street, New York.

16. **Publishers' Trade List Annual.** Bowker. New York, N.Y., 1944. $3.50. First published in 1873.

A large volume appearing annually made up of collection of publishers' catalogs arranged alphabetically and bound together with no general index. It lists books in print.

17. **Publishers' Weekly.** Bowker. $5.00 per year.

The American book trade journal, containing lists of new publications of the week, lists of books announced for publication, news notes, editorials and articles, advertisements of books wanted, etc.

18. **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.** Wilson. Service basis.

Began in 1900. Author and subject entries are given for each article, and title entries are included for stories. All entries are in one alphabet. Some 100 periodicals are indexed.

19. **Standard Catalog for High School Libraries.** 4th edition. Wilson. Service basis.

Contains 3,800 books. Annual supplements.

20. **Standard Catalog for Public Libraries.** 1940 edition. Wilson. Service basis.

Classed catalog for some 12,000 titles. Includes an analytical index.

21. **Subscription Books Bulletin.** A.L.A. quarterly. $2.00. Complete set of first 13 volumes, 1930–1942. $13.00.

Unbiased, critical reviews of encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, and other reference works.

22. **Technical Book Review Index.** Special Library Association, New York, N.Y. $8.00.

Published monthly, except July and August. The purpose of this list is to identify reviews in current scientific, technical and trade journals; and when feasible to quote from these reviews.

23. **Trade Catalogs.**

Various technical magazines list trade catalogs and manufacturers' literature and furnish to subscribers a trade catalog service in each issue to facilitate requests. See, e.g. *Aero Digest, Pencil Points, Steel, Textile World.*

24. **United States Quarterly Book List.** Vol. 1, No. 1, March, 1945.

Selective listing, annotated and with biographical data on author. Essential. Published by the Library of Congress and sold by Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. Foreign subscription $1.75 per volume.

25. **United States Superintendent of Documents.** LIST OF SELECTED U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS. Issued semi-monthly. Free.

Monthly catalog. Foreign subscription, $2.85 a year.

26. **Vertical File Service Catalog.** Wilson. $3.50 per year.

Monthly, with quarterly and annual cumulations. First published April, 1932. An annotated list of pamphlet material arranged alphabetically by subject.

27. **H. W. Wilson Co.** THE WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN. Monthly (Sept.–June). The Co. $1.00 per year.

Includes book news, biographical sketches of living authors, bibliographical and professional material, and the READERS' CHOICE OF THE BEST BOOKS, a selected list of the more popular books.

British Information Services *

By WILLIAM C. DALGOUTTE

BIS is an agency of the British Government responsible to H.M. Minister in Washington representing the Ministry of Information, Mr. H. B. Butler (formerly Warden of Nuffield College and Director of the International Labour Office). It is one branch of the "Ministry of Information Services in the U.S.A.," others being the Embassy Information Office, the British Overseas Press Service (which serves countries outside the U.K. and U.S.A.), and the British Information Liaison Office with the United Nations. Mr. Butler is Director-General of these Services, Mr. Aubrey Niel Morgan being his Deputy. Mr. G. D'A. Edmondson is Controller of British Information Services.

BIS is the lineal descendant of the British Library of Information (established by the Foreign Office in 1920, and the prototype of many similar libraries maintained abroad by other governments) which re-united with the British Press Service (an offshoot of the BLI separately established in 1940) in the British Information Services in May, 1942. Its headquarters are in New York, but there are branches in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco; in addition, there are information officers at Los Angeles, Boston and Seattle, film officers at Hollywood and Atlanta, and film assistants and certain clerical staff in other towns, practically all working in or attached to British consular offices.

The New York office operates in four divisions—Information, Press and Radio, General, and Films—and to some extent the branch offices function along similar lines. In the following descriptions of their scope and operations, the Information Division has been treated at somewhat greater length than the others as being of more direct interest to members of Aslib.

BIS makes its first impact on the general public enquirer through the INFORMATION DIVISION. Telephone, mail and personal enquiries are dealt with by an *Enquiries Section* whose members specialize in different types of enquiry or by the *Research Section* if they relate to labour and industry and allied topics; both these Sections assist also in the preparation of pamphlets and Information Papers on British affairs, including all aspects of the war effort and such subjects as education, social service, reconstruction, rehabilitation, taxation, trade, etc. There is a separate *Library* staff engaged in the processing of material and in dealing with bibliographical enquiries. There is a *Sales Section* where the publications of H.M. Stationery Office and certain national museums may be purchased and, finally, there are separate sections specializing on *India* and and the *Colonies*.

The Library serves all parts of BIS but is closely concerned with the work of the Information Division, hence its location, both organizationally and structurally: the reading room, walled with book-stacks, opens off the public reception area; separated from that area by a counter is the Enquiries Section which is lined along one long side with vertical files; and beyond them is the main stackroom. Altogether, the Library houses some 9,000 books and pamphlets, 300 current British periodicals, 73 drawers of clippings from both the British and American press, and 41,000 British official publications.

In building up the Library, stress has always been on factual information rather than on expressions of opinion. Emphasis has been strongest on current affairs—at the moment, the war in relation to Britain, both in its military and its civil aspects—and the coverage of historical developments therefore decreases in ratio to the remoteness of the period. A well-chosen selection of reference books on British history and topography, however, was a fundamental necessity. The social sciences—economics; politics; social services, institutions, customs, etc.,—are most strongly represented, but there is only slight representation in the case of literature, art, science and technology

* This article was written and despatched from the U.S.A. before the end of hostilities in the Far East.—Ed.

(which are all adequately represented in the numerous expert special libraries in which America, and New York in particular, abounds). A few technical notes may be of interest: the main book collection is classified according to Dewey, but the India Section follows the modification of Dewey used in the India House library; the vertical file is largely alphabetico-classed, and the documents collection follows the numbering system used by the Stationery Office.

The Library is the main link between BIS and American libraries. It provides institutional membership in the American Library Association and in the Special Libraries Association; the latter has shown its respect by choosing two chapter presidents from the staff of the BLI and BIS.

The PRESS AND RADIO DIVISION, on the other hand, has no direct dealing with the public. It could not, obviously, provide "spot news" but it can and does, through its *Press Section*, provide the United States press with a service of a supplementary and background nature. The raw material originating in the Ministry and within BIS is handled by an Anglo-American re-write staff and released to the wire agencies and the national press. A number of feature stories illustrated with photographs are sent out through the branch offices on an exclusive-to-you-in-your-area basis.

The *Radio Section* works with the American networks and radio stations in providing material and speakers appropriate to their programmes. The Section issues a series of recordings entitled "Freedom's Fighting Men" consisting of talks by soldiers, sailors and airmen and also recordings of noteworthy non-military visitors. A short-wave listening post monitors BBC broadcasts and issues releases to a wide mailing list.

The *Magazine and Editorial Section* assists the staff correspondents of magazines in writing their articles and also provides a wide selection of articles by well-known British authors for both popular and specialized and trade publications. It is also responsible for editing "Britain" (a monthly magazine available to paid subscribers only, which consists of fiction, articles, photographs, pic-diagrams, cartoons and other features of interest), "Weekly War Notes" (a newsletter prepared primarily for the information of British officials in the U.S.), and the various popular pamphlets distributed by the General Division. It also assists in arranging contracts with American publishers for H.M. Stationery Office publications.

The *Photographs Section* has a collection of some 100,000 photographs arranged in filing cabinets under an alphabetico-classed system. Greatest stress has naturally been given to the war in all its aspects and the collection includes some of the most memorable and dramatic shots of the war. The non-war aspect has not, however, been neglected and is steadily increasing in importance.

There is also a *Military Affairs Section*, a *Naval Information Office*, and an *RAF Adviser*, who assist with advice, information and material in their respective fields. The first-mentioned also issues a twice-weekly war commentary.

In the GENERAL DIVISION, the *Speakers Section* endeavours to fill requests made by American organizations for British speakers, both members of the armed forces who may be made available for the purpose and those visitors who, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Information, are in the U.S.A. in response to invitations from American organizations.

The *Exhibitions Section* provides:

Standard Exhibitions, suitable for display in museums, adult education centres and large department stores, which are frequently supplemented with speakers, films and literature for distribution.

Smaller Exhibitions for limited display areas, such as windows and lobbies.

Photographic Exhibitions covering practically every phase of the war effort.

Books with poster-sized pages turned by electricity, which deal with topical themes.

Specially designed window displays—posters and photographs illustrating a single subject.

Poster-Card Sets (coloured) on the British Empire and British institutions issued periodically.

Glossy Print Sets (photographs with brief text) issued once a month on some topical subject.

The *Circulation Section* maintains general and closely-classified mailing lists to which popular pamphlets, posters, etc., and more specialized material is sent without charge by the *Despatch Section*. By far the greater part of total distribution is in response to particular *ad hoc* requests which have increased continuously to a weekly average at the end of 1944 of 35,000 items. A list of the most popular publications, showing the total number of each, is appended. Two monthly periodicals (edited in the Information Division) are maintained: " British Speeches of the Day " and " Labor and Industry in Britain."

The FILM DIVISION arranges, through American film companies, for the exhibition in motion picture theatres of such Ministry of Information films as " Target for Tonight," " Desert Victory," and " Coastal Command " and of short films such as " Letter from Ireland," " These are the Men," and " Lily Marlene."

The Division also distributes on a loan or sale basis films for non-theatrical showing by clubs, institutions, and individuals. These are mostly 16 mm. sound prints, though 35 mm. prints are also available. The chief subjects represented are Army, Navy and Merchant Navy, RAF, the British Commonwealth of Nations, rehabilitation, post-war planning, industry, the farm front, women's war work, children, and the Four Freedoms. General and specialized lists of the 156 titles available are distributed on request.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX—YEAR ENDED JUNE 1945

	New York	Branches and Information Officers
Enquiries answered	53,500**	24,800
Library loans	8,800**	—
Information Papers published	106	—
Press Releases (including radio)	1,860	1,250†
Radio Script Releases	329	—
Magazine Articles placed	1,280	—
Photographs loaned	7,200	36,240§
Photographs issued to subscribing agencies	2,319	—

Speaking and Broadcasting engagements:	Total
Official speakers	2,185
Staff	367
Assisted by BIS	671
Pamphlets distributed (excluding periodicals)	1,606,848
Non-Theatrical Film showings	66,176
Press and Radio Conferences and Receptions	238

** Information Division only.

† Includes some re-issues of New York material received by teletype, but does not include 457 items released by San Francisco to special lists (e.g. Visiting Press) during the United Nations Conference.

§ Includes photographs and enlargements used for display and exhibition purposes. The New York figures relate to Press use only.

DISTRIBUTION OF MOST POPULAR PAMPHLETS TO APRIL, 1945

Title	*First Issued*	*Distribution*
Commonwealth Folder	23. 4.43	135,734
India's Right to Freedom	23. 4.43	105,187
Another 50 Facts about Britain at War	7. 5.43	99,964
Changing Britain	14. 5.43	92,637
50 Facts about British Women	7. 7.43	101,958
People at War	11. 8.43	131,995
R A F	31. 8.43	96,373
The First Four Years	22. 9.43	129,147
Winston Churchill (extracts from his speeches)	27.11.43	196,029
Winning the Peace	19. 1.44	81,812
John Britain	29. 2.44	217,115
Britain and the Common Pool	23. 4.44	112,264
Commonwealth and Empire	31. 5.44	118,577
Britain *vs.* Japan	18. 7.44	159,064
Famous Names	30. 6.44	63,513
Five Years of War	29. 8.44	102,051
Report on the Flying Bomb	14. 9.44	125,459
India—Progress in Government	9.10.44	148,808
50 Facts about the War Effort	21.11.44	117,659
1945 Calendar	21.11.44	148,372
Flying Bombs	26.12.44	125,489
First Blows	16. 1.45	107,381
Britain's Future in the Making	3. 3.45	111,360

The Work of the Special Libraries Association

By ELEANOR S. CAVANAUGH

Chairman, International Relations Committee, American Special Libraries Association

Greetings from the officers and directors of the Special Libraries Association in America to Aslib in conference in London.

Our Association is indeed happy that a request for a paper outlining links with the U.S.A. in the special library field came to us from you. We in SLA in America during the war have been doing much thinking and planning on possible interchange of techniques and ideas and mutual co-operation with specialists working in our fields in other countries.

As you know, one of our first projects was to appoint a committee on Aid to Devastated Libraries in War Areas. Out of the work of this Committee and in co-operation with the American Library Association, the Council of National Library Associations and the State Department there has been organized and incorporated the American Book Center for Aid to Devastated Libraries in War Areas. This A B C is now busy organizing a nation-wide campaign to collect books and other materials of a scholarly, technical, and research nature to be allocated to those countries in the United Nations whose collections have been in whole or in part destroyed by war, and also to fill in collections with research and technical materials published in this country and denied shipment to libraries abroad since the beginning of hostilities in 1940. It is the hope of the officers and directors of A B C that through these same channels American libraries will be able to receive by sort of reverse lend-lease much foreign materials that we need to complete our collections from 1940 to date. This campaign, we hope will be fully organized, financed, and ready for complete activity by October first, this year.

The International Relations Committee of the Special Libraries Association

is by correspondence keeping in touch with our members in England and is daily answering appeals for materials and lists on various types of new materials relating to the sciences and trade and commerce. Our Headquarter's office is gladly depleting its stockpile of back issues of our journal—" Special Libraries," " Technical Book Review Index " and other professional publications and sending them abroad to those interested in restoring their collections as quickly as possible. In this connection back issues of Technical Book Review Index, an S L A sponsored publication, is proving most useful. We are also compiling upon requests from foreign libraries bibliographies of scientific books, and of magazine articles on banking, trade and industry. We are sending not only the lists, but some actual materials from the duplicate collections in our own libraries. We are hoping to pursue this intensively, so that our confrères in Europe may have access to needed materials, especially materials and data published in this country during the past five years.

Also at our Headquarters' office we have a library of classification and subject heading schemes, which although primarily for loan to our members in the States are available to overseas libraries through the process of typing or photo offset. A complete mimeographed list of these schemes is available. Some of the schemes are particularly useful as they represent classifications and subject headings for new fields developed during war. An outstanding example of this is aircraft industry. Two new publications just off press are especially valuable. The *Subject Heading List for Chemistry Libraries* and the *Classification and Cataloging of Maps and Atlases*—this last, a most scholarly volume written and edited by Mr. S. Whittemore Boggs, chief of the Division of Geography and Cartography of our State Department. We have also a small collection of business " house organs " which in many instances have articles on new processes, new materials and new techniques developed by individual companies under whose names these house organs are issued.

Special Libraries Association has in the editing stage a bulletin of library news, developments and new trends and techniques in the special library field which will be sent, in early fall, to some 300 library associations, libraries, and librarians in foreign countries. This will, we hope, bring our foreign colleagues up to date on what has been taking place in the special library field in America, and should it be received favorably, we shall continue it as a permanent project for the interchange of ideas with those in a similar field in foreign countries. Likewise, such a bulletin edited at irregular intervals by your Association and sent to us would indeed be welcomed. We, too, want to know about problems and their solution, new ideas and new developments and publications in the fields of research, science, and trade and commerce in your country.

Since the war started Special Libraries Association in America has been thinking and planning along the lines of an exchange of librarians and library students with other countries. With Great Britain, where language is not a barrier, this should prove a very happy and profitable exchange. It is a growing conviction that in order to know the peoples of other countries we must establish more intimate contacts with them than we have had up to this time—What better way than by the exchange of members of professions ? We fervently hope that in the immediate future arrangements may be made whereby our best special library technicians will be provided opportunities actually to work in foreign libraries, to teach American techniques in foreign library schools, and in return, extend to foreign researchers, librarians and students the opportunity to work in our libraries in special fields, thereby providing a most practical way of linking the special library professions with other countries. If we can do this we may hope for a clarification of each other's problems and the development of library standards on an international level. All this should add up to exceedingly profitable results for the entire field of special librarianship of the future.

Probably the most important and the most far-reaching link, and the link with the greatest potentialities, is the proposal by your Allied Ministers of

Education for an Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations. It is inconceivable that this proposal will not be favorably acted upon by the countries comprising the United Nations. We, in special libraries in this country feel strongly that librarians should be represented in the Council and at its conferences. Libraries are surely actively engaged in the promotion of education and culture—and special librarians are even providing the bankers, industrialists and technical researchers of this country with information and data, which applied to their problems, have a direct effect on the social and economic life of these countries. Also as custodians of a vast collection of working materials in the humanities, the sciences, and trade and commerce, we are in a position to contribute valuable documentary evidence for the use of those who will form the working committees of this educational and cultural organization and who, in all likelihood, will be charged with the formulation of programs for the enlargement and betterment of education and culture in those countries whose normal activities have been so sharply and so seriously interrupted during this war.

In a conference called by the State Department early this year in the interests of planning help for devastated libraries in Europe, and out of which grew the above-mentioned American Book Center, Mr. Archibald MacLeish, former Librarian of Congress, and now Assistant Secretary of State, proposed as a means of obliterating what he termed " cultural deserts," a plan for interlibrary loans on an international basis. This is indeed a forward looking plan and when and if put into operation will provide a vital and strong link between all libraries in all countries.

It is possible that by the time the Aslib Conference is convened that hostilities will have ceased, and that all the efforts of government, local administrators, builders, merchants, industrialists, teachers and librarians will be turning their efforts toward a restoration to a peace-time program.

No longer can a nation plan on a national basis—the world has become one world indeed. Each nation needs the other. Each nation knows it must supply that which another nation may lack, be it goods or books. Each nation must know and understand other nations. The best that any nation has to offer must be at the disposal of all nations. So, too, must we librarians, as a professional body, pool our knowledge and our resources, so that we may form an important link in what shall be a strong chain called the United Nations.

The National Central Library and the United States

By E. G. TAYLOR, B.A., and R. H. HILL, M.A., F.L.A.

THE BUREAU OF AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

On January 1st, 1938, a Bureau of American Bibliography was established at the National Central Library with the generous financial aid of the Rockefeller Foundation and with a complete set of Library of Congress cards as its nucleus. The cards then numbered approximately a million and a half, and about 50,000 were added each year up to the end of 1940, when it was considered advisable to ask the Library of Congress to hold further shipments until after the war. As soon as the shipping position improves these cards will be forwarded, but it may take a considerable time before the catalogue is up to date, as there will be an accumulation of some 250,000 cards. The catalogue is enormously useful to the staff of the National Central Library in its bibliographical work and could be of wider use if its possibilities were appreciated—*e.g.* as an aid in classifying for libraries using the Library of Congress classification, and to a less extent for those using Dewey ; for authors wishing to check their bibliographies and to verify details ; for analytical information, as contents of volumes and sets; and for various other purposes.

The Library of Congress is also presenting a set of its cards for bibliographies, a total of about 63,500 cards. These will be arranged in classified order and will augment considerably the bibliographical material available.

Most of the H. W. Wilson Company's indexes are to be found in the Bureau, as well as many bibliographies, and it is hoped to expand this collection and bring up to date the American publishers' catalogues as soon as shortage of staff is made good and the assistant in charge can be released from the routine bibliographical work of the Library.

Critical information on American publications is also to be found in the Bureau—in the *Book Review Digest*, for example—which should assist librarians in the choice of American books for purchase. Enquiries of this sort will be dealt with as fully as possible as a contribution towards the fostering of a better understanding of the United States.

AMERICAN BOOKS

One of the special activities of the National Central Library during the war has been to collaborate with the Committee on International Relations of the American Library Association in the distribution of American books and periodicals (purchased out of a special grant from the Rockefeller Foundation) to men serving in the British Forces at home and overseas. Well over 35,000 books and periodicals have been distributed in this way, and many appreciative letters have been received.

Another task which, it is hoped, will help to promote closer understanding between the American and British peoples is a scheme, sponsored by the Ministry of Information and financed by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, for the supply of a greater number of American books to British public libraries. Under the direction of a joint committee representing the Ministry, the Trust, and publishing and bookselling as well as library interests, the Library undertook the printing and distribution of lists compiled by the American Library Association and the collection of orders for books obtainable only in America. The first list, entitled *Interpreting the United States,* contained 689 books suitable for British public libraries and was published in March, 1943 ; a " first supplement " of 126 books appeared in September, 1944. It is estimated that upwards of 15,000 books have been ordered as a result, by well over 150 libraries. Further supplements are being published from time to time in the *Library Association Record.*

The Library Association : Cultural Relations with the U.S.A.

By L. R. McCOLVIN, F.L.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Library Association

The Charter of the Library Association specifies its objects and purposes as being directly connected with libraries and librarians. The fostering of cultural relationships in any broad sense of the word is not therefore within its scope, but it has endeavoured to play its part in maintaining contacts between and through libraries which, being themselves cultural agencies, can therefore be said to be an essential part in the whole machinery now under consideration. On matters of mutual interest there has always been close and continuous interchange between the executive officers of the British and American Library Associations and, during the period before America entered the war, special facilities were given by the British Government to the Library Association to assist in forwarding to the United States information about the effects of war on British Libraries.

Personal visits by representative librarians from this country began in May, 1941, when Mr. H. M. Cashmore, Hon. Treasurer of the Library Association, attended the American Library Association Conference at Boston and

subsequently addressed a number of meetings in the United States. This was followed in the autumn of 1941 by a lecture tour by Dr. A. Esdaile, President of the Association. In 1942 no visit was possible, but the writer addressed the American Library Association Conference by Transatlantic telephone. The last visits were in the latter part of 1944, when Sir John Forsdyke and Dr. Thomas visited a number of libraries in the United States. In all cases news of libraries in this country and fraternal greetings were carried by the visitors for personal delivery.

As soon as it became evident that there would be American Forces stationed in this country an invitation was extended through American Library Journals to all librarians in the United States Services to participate in Library Association activities and to visit colleagues in this country whenever an opportunity arose. The American Armed Forces have always had a library service, and the Association has been glad to render assistance in various ways to the officers of this service when they were stationed in or passing through London, and some of them made considerable use of the resources of the Association's own Library and Information Bureau on technical matters. The facilities of the Library Association Library have not, however, been confined to library matters or to library officers, for many other departments have used it for a variety of reasons and telephonic enquiries have been numerous. It may here also be said that the use made of public and other libraries, both in London and the provinces, has been continuous, considerable and, we have every reason to believe, highly appreciated.

In February, 1942, the first tentative proposals for the establishment of an American Library of Information in London were received from the American Library Association, followed in April by a draft scheme for which cordial support was intimated by cable. In June, 1942, the Association wrote to the American Embassy making certain suggestions with offers of practical assistance, and in August, 1942, the Hon. Secretary and Secretary had the honour of an interview with Mr. Winant, who showed himself most warmly appreciative of the scheme and entirely helpful in every way. It only remains to be said that the American Library, under Dr. Heindel, was formally opened in May, 1943.

The American Library Association compiled a select book-list for the purposes of explaining the American background and outlook, entitled " Interpreting the U.S.A." and this was published in March, 1943, by the National Central Library which undertook the ordering of books for Libraries from this list. Upwards of 350 public libraries took advantage of the scheme and purchased American books through it. Supplements to the book-list are still being published from time to time in " The Library Association Record," but the books are ordered by libraries through the normal trade channels.

Attention was drawn by a number of libraries to the serious mutilation of parts of periodicals by the American censor. This question was taken up and a considerable improvement was brought about, the censoring of such material being finally abolished in July, 1943.

At the same time effective steps were taken to step up the time taken in transit. The Association also took up with the British Board of Trade details of means to facilitate the import of American books and periodicals. Steps were taken at the time to replace those parts of periodicals which had been mutilated, and since then a joint committee has undertaken extensive inquiries into the shortages of American periodicals in British libraries due to war causes in general.

In November, 1944, the Association was happy to offer hospitality for an exhibition by " Books across the Sea " of American children's books and at the same time to show the fifty best British books which were being sent for exhibition in America. The exhibition was largely attended and warmly appreciated.

The question of setting aside books for the restoration of war-damaged libraries received attention on both sides of the Atlantic from an early date and

close contact has been maintained throughout. Not only has information been sent to America, but the opportunity has been warmly appreciated of having American visitors attending meetings of various committees concerned with this matter and participating in their deliberations.

On the introduction of Leave Courses for the American Services, steps were immediately taken to ascertain what contribution could be made in the field of librarianship. Organised classes for short periods of study were not practicable, but the first of a series of monthly courses for 20 or so American Librarians has already taken place. For the first week of each course the party is taken on visits to national and other libraries in the London area, and for the remaining three weeks the participants individually are attached to appropriate libraries in all parts of the country. In this way each of them will not only refresh his technical knowledge but for that time he will live and work under the same conditions as his British colleagues. The spread of mutual understanding and appreciation to be expected from numerous contacts of this kind needs no emphasis here.

City Links with America

By W. MANNING DACEY

Editor of The Banker

If there is one institution with a truly international outlook, it is the City of London. It is therefore to be expected that the City should have had close financial and trading links with the United States from the earliest days. " From the times of Queen Elizabeth," says Herbert Feis, " English investment in the United States had been substantial. Taking all the centuries together, this country was the greatest foreign field of financial adventure for the British capitalist." By the time of the Napoleonic wars, the purchase of American stocks was already a practice of many years standing. Throughout the nineteenth century there was a steady flow of British capital across the Atlantic to help in building the canals and railways, to finance banks and public utilities. At the outbreak of the last war, British holdings in the United States amounted to over £750 millions, or considerably more than in any other country—inside or outside the Empire.

By the turn of the century, of course, the flow of long-term capital was already slowing down. The United States had already become a mature industrial country capable of financing its further development without external assistance—or even of exporting capital on her own account. Both in the war of 1914–18 and in the war now happily concluded, moreover, Britain was forced to draw heavily on all her overseas assets and not least on her dollar investments. Nevertheless, the British public has maintained its interest in American securities. Up to 1939, all the leading U.S. industrials were quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Some half-dozen American brokerage houses did an active business in the City, and two have even survived the war, with its vestings and requisitionings of dollar stocks.

On the side of banking and insurance the connection has always been particularly close. Nearly all the large British insurance companies are active in the United States, and it will be recalled that the earnings of several of these concerns formed part of the collateral for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation loan to this country in 1940. Some of the very names of the merchant banking firms recall our connections with the United States ; for example, the House of Morgan is brought to mind by any mention of Morgan Grenfell & Co., while Higginson & Co. formerly had close relations with Lee Higginson. All the large American banks have agencies in the City, which form an integral

part of the London money market. For technical reasons, the British joint stock banks have never possessed affiliates in New York, but great interest was recently aroused by the announcement that the Midland Bank have appointed Mr. John C. Read as their representative in New York, and it is known that at least one other member of the Big Five had already taken a similar step.

In normal times, too, several City houses, such as Samuel Montagu and Company, specialised in gold arbitrage, largely to the United States. This is one aspect of the City's activities which has inevitably suffered eclipse during the war. Similarly, the war has seen the disappearance—it may be hoped temporarily—of the London foreign exchange market and the great commodity markets, such as the Metal Exchange, which were so sensitive to developments in the corresponding markets on the other side of the Atlantic. Hence it would be idle to deny that the war has resulted in a marked diminution in the day-to-day financial business of the City with the United States, and also in an attenuation of personal contacts with America which is much regretted. At the same time, the war has had the effect that this country and the United States have become financially more " mixed up in their affairs " than ever before in history. Economic developments in the United States are, therefore, followed with the liveliest interest in the City. The American attitude towards full employment, the future of the American national income and of American commercial and tariff policy, to give only a few examples, are of direct concern to this country as one of the great trading nations in the world.

This interest is reflected on the one hand in the prominence given to American economic affairs in the British press and on the other hand in the close attention bestowed on American economic and financial literature. Every Monday morning, for instance, *The Times* carries a half-column review of current trends in the United States, while such matters as the American budget, the position of Wall Street and the progress of Bretton Woods have been the subject of innumerable articles in the financial press. There is unfortunately no American publication which enjoys on this side the unique prestige of *The Economist* in the United States ; but such publications as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* and the *Journal of Commerce* are closely followed. American official publications are read by a small but highly informed public in the City. Some months ago, for example, the admirable report of the Department of Commerce on " The United States in World Economy " was widely discussed and much praised for its realistic approach to the dollar problem. More recently, the report of the House Special Committee on " Post-War Economic Policy and Planning " was similarly approved over here for its constructive views. And such regular publications as the *Survey of Current Business* and the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* are a source of much valuable information to British banking circles. It was from the *Bulletin*, for example, that this country first learned the figures of the British dollar position at the end of 1940, and great admiration is felt for the informative special articles by high officials of the Federal Reserve Board, such as Mr. Goldenweiser.

The publications of such bodies as the Brookings Institute, Yale and Harvard, and the National Bureau of Economic Research are also studied with care. On this side, much valuable work has been done by the American Chamber of Commerce in London, which has published a series of useful pamphlets, including one dealing frankly with " Divergent British-American Viewpoints." It should be mentioned, too, that the periodical luncheons held by this body, often addressed by Cabinet Ministers, are attended by many representatives of City institutions. Many prominent bankers were present at the latest of these, at which Mr. Winthrop Aldrich, of the Chase National Bank, gave an interesting exposé of the approach to economic problems by at any rate one school of American thought. Taken together, these few examples, individually of little importance, show that even in the present abnormal situation the City is anxious to preserve its long-standing links with the United States, and preserves a keen interest in American developments and ideas.

Exchanges of Staff and Students between British and American Universities *

By Dr. RICHARD A. JOHNSON, Ph.D.

Third Secretary of the United States Embassy, London

Only one permanent arrangement for the reciprocal exchange of faculty members between British and American Universities is known to exist. The Imperial College of Science and Technology announced recently that it had arranged with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to maintain after the war a regular interchange both of staff and of graduate students. Arrangements are now being concluded for faculty exchanges between twenty-four paired British and American Universities or University Colleges, but definite plans have not been announced. Eventually it is hoped that students will also be exchanged by the Universities and Colleges concerned.

Occasional unilateral or reciprocal exchanges of faculty members or research specialists took place before the war between Universities, research institutions, or university hospitals but the number of persons involved in such arrangements is believed to have been very small. On the other hand, the great American foundations sent British specialists to the United States and American specialists to Great Britain in fairly large numbers ; and the Leverhulme Trust announced recently that it is now prepared to make grants to British specialists for study in the United States. During the war there has been an exchange of research specialists on an even larger scale through the mediums of official agencies such as O.S.R.D., and O.W.I., and their British counterparts, but only the Rockefeller Foundation has continued to operate in Great Britain and its activities have been curtailed.

Nine United States—United Kingdom student exchange arrangements at the university level existed before the war, but only four of these provided for reciprocal exchanges. The Mellon Exchange Fellowships, which are sustained by an endowment created by the late Andrew Mellon, permitted an annual exchange between Clare College, Cambridge and Yale University. The Henry Fellowships, which are also endowed, supported annual exchanges of four post-graduate students at Oxford and Cambridge with an equivalent number from Harvard and Yale. An exchange of one student each year between the University of St. Andrew's and Union College of Schenectady, New York, was conducted between 1935 and 1939 on the basis of an agreement which has been suspended but not cancelled by the war and an annual student exchange between Southampton and a Middle Western University was initiated in 1937 and operated until the war intervened.

The Commonwealth Fund of New York, which was established in 1918, has been making grants since 1925 to British subjects to permit them to study and travel in the United States. Between 1925 and 1939 a total of 361 graduates of United Kingdom Universities held its Ordinary Fellowships. Forty-eight persons of British descent holding positions overseas under the British Government, the government of India, Dominion, Colony, protectorate or mandated governments held Overseas Service Fellowships between 1929 and 1939 ; and nine persons holding positions in the United Kingdom Civil Service received appointments to study in the United States between 1937 and 1939. In 1939, twenty-four Ordinary Fellowships, five Service Fellowships, and three Home Service Fellowships were offered. The best-known scholarships available to American University students for study in Great Britain are those granted by the Rhodes Trust. Thirty-two Rhodes Scholars are elected annually from the United States and accepted by various Colleges at Oxford University. Election

* Extract from an article "The Teaching of American History in Great Britain" reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, October, 1944, by kind permission of its Managing Editor, Mr. Guy Stanton Ford.

confers the stipend for two years but an extension is sometimes granted for a third year of study elsewhere. Candidates must be University students between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five and unmarried.

The Kellett Fellowships, which are administered by the Dean of Columbia College, are tenable for two years by graduates of Columbia. They were instituted in 1933, and two students were appointed annually up to 1939. Kellett Fellows are received by Oriel College, Oxford and Clare College, Cambridge. The Fiske and Lionel Harvard Fellowships are tenable by Harvard graduates, who are received, respectively, by Trinity and Emmanuel Colleges at Cambridge.

Educational Work of the English-Speaking Union

By EDITH A. FORD, H.M.I.

Chairman, British Committee for the Interchange of Teachers between Great Britain and the United States

No review of " Links with the U.S.A." could appear without some mention of the pioneering enterprise of the English-Speaking Union. The present very brief note refers only to its educational activities designed to promote British-American understanding. Further particulars can be obtained from Mrs. L. K. Scott, Public Relations Officer at Dartmouth House, 37, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.1, and, so far as the Interchange of Teachers is concerned, from myself at the same address.

The Education Committee, with Professor Winifred Cullis as Chairman, is composed of delegates of the chief educational bodies in this country together with a few individuals interested in educational affairs. The Committee provides information on the British Educational system for American visitors and fosters the provision of courses in American History for British Teachers. Its main work has been the administration of a number of travelling scholarships to enable Teachers to visit the U.S.A. for short periods, and in this connection hospitality has been provided by the English-Speaking Union of the United States. It is hoped to revive these facilities as soon as possible in the post-war period.

The British Committee for the Interchange of Teachers between Britain and the U.S.A. —A Committee, with the writer as Chairman and representative of the leading educational authorities and teachers' organisations, has now been organised, with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Education and the Scottish Education Department, to revive and extend the pre-war schemes which were designed to enable experienced teachers to secure, in " exchanges " with American teachers, a year's leave for work in America conditional on return afterwards to their posts in this country.

The British and American Schoolboy Scholarships Committee, with Mr. F. B. Malim (late Headmaster of Wellington) as Chairman—It is hoped to revive the pre-war arrangements for reciprocal interchange of schoolboys from the leading Public Schools in the country and representative American private schools. In America the International Schoolboy Fellowship administered this scheme.

The Youth Committee—Mrs. Walter Elliott, Chairman, organises Conferences and Meetings to give British boys and girls aged 14 to 20, most of whom have already left school, some interpretation of the United States by addresses by American speakers and others often illustrated by documentary films, etc.

Roosevelt Travelling Scholarships—As a Memorial to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, the English-Speaking Union is establishing Travelling Scholarships for men and women workers in business, professions, industry, agriculture or Social Service to enable the holders to visit America and meet Americans engaged in similar pursuits.

"A B C"

The Work of the American and British-Commonwealth Association

By MAJOR W. E. SIMNETT, M.B.E.

In the latter half of 1940, I was in the United States on a Colonial mission for the British Government. In the course of my duties naturally I had to report to the British Ambassador at Washington. I had known Lord Lothian as Philip Kerr in the first World War and as Editor of *The Round Table*. During a long conversation after luncheon, he gave me his views on the future relations of the United States and the British Commonwealth, some of which he afterwards developed in the speech which was read for him while he lay dying. The shock of his untimely death, and my own experience in America, led me to think deeply about this subject on my return to England, and early in 1941 I resolved to try to initiate a movement for promoting closer political, economic and social relations between the United States and the British Commonwealth. The work of such bodies as the Pilgrims, promoted by Sir Harry Brittain, and the English-Speaking Union, founded by Sir Evelyn Wrench, was, of course, well known to me, and I had been in close touch with the activities of the latter body on both sides of the Atlantic. It is pre-eminent in the social field, and has done and is doing immensely valuable work, but under the stress of war I felt that conditions had developed which rendered collaboration over a much wider field than was contemplated in the objects of the Union urgently desirable. There is ample scope for every effort in the immensely broad field of American-British relations, and I am glad to say that our respective activities are pursued in a spirit of co-operation and friendly emulation.

I had not been at work very long, being chiefly anxious to suggest to American friends the independent initiation of an A.B.C. movement over there, before I found a small group of people starting to work here on similar lines and with the same objective as myself, even to practical identity in title. We joined forces, and under the active leadership of Sir John Mactaggart, Bart., the American and British-Commonwealth Association, known shortly as A B C, was founded. A strong Executive Committee was formed, headquarters were established at South Street, Park Lane, founder members eminent in every branch of national life joined us, and we were fortunate in securing as our first president, Marshal of the R.A.F., Lord Trenchard.

It is impossible within the limits of this brief note to do more than indicate the general nature of the wide activities which have filled the last few years, greatly hampered as all such effort necessarily has been by war conditions, and to select for mention one or two outstanding items that may be of particular interest to this Conference. I hope that some day the story will be fully told, as it deserves to be, perhaps on attaining our majority in 1962. In the first detailed prospectus, which I had the honour of drafting, a wide programme was marked out, and sub-committees were appointed, to which eminent specialists were co-opted, to deal with questions of economic policy, reciprocal citizenship or mutual civil privileges, collaboration between scientists, technicians, business executives, trade unionists and others, reduction of tariffs, exchange stabilisation, improved labour and social security standards, establishment of an Institute, issue of a journal and other publications, formation of an Anglo-American library, and other objectives. We also collaborated with other bodies and committees in the investigation of various problems affecting Anglo-American and world relations. In 1943 we drafted a constitution which was accepted by the Board of Trade and we were incorporated under the Companies Acts in October of that year.

To organise the movement throughout the country, active branches were established in the provinces, membership and finance campaigns undertaken,

lectures and brains trusts organised and lecturers supplied, films secured and distributed, close liaison established with the American authorities, civil and military, in this country, whilst much work was done in connexion with the American Forces, and so forth. I would like to single out a few activities for special mention. Though responsible as hon. editor for early issues of the *Bulletin*, I had always at heart the founding of a journal not confined to members and dealing with every aspect of Anglo-American life, perhaps to be produced on both sides of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, we could not get the consent of the proper authorities to the issue of a journal, and in the meantime *Transatlantic* appeared, successfully embodying many of the features of such a publication. We issued pamphlets, and two of these, for which I was responsible—*Introducing America* and *Introducing Greater Britain*—have sold considerably over 100,000 copies and are still selling. Plans for an Anglo-American library of reference, to be suitably housed, were early approved, my practical experience as a librarian and in forming other libraries encouraging me to entertain great hopes of this project. A beginning was made, but, as you doubtless know, the American authorities established here an admirable reference library under the expert charge of Dr. Heindel, so for the present our own scheme is in abeyance.

We are also actively formulating plans for bringing together or extending contacts between scientific, professional, business and other organisations on both sides of the Atlantic, and for encouraging meetings between " opposite numbers " in all walks of life and activity. The formation of " connective tissue " of this kind is, I think, the most hopeful basis for future co-operation between us. Another interesting and important development has been the formal celebration in this country of Thanksgiving Day. With the generous co-operation of Lord Camrose and the *Daily Telegraph*, the Royal Albert Hall was taken for a great Festival in 1944, when the then Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, and His Excellency, Mr. John Winant, addressed a crowded and enthusiastic audience of both nations. The Festival is being repeated this year.

One of our most prominent objectives has been the foundation of an Anglo-American Institute of cultural relations and study, and a great deal of work has been put into this project, the advancement of which owes much to the driving force and enthusiasm of our present chairman, Sir Clive Baillieu. I have not been able to allude to the question of affiliation in the United States and to many other matters which have been and are engaging the attention of the Executive and officers, including Mr. Wilfrid Andrews, Mr. Cyril Asquith, Mr. Ashley Dodd and other colleagues. I believe the Association has a great work to do in promoting closer and permanent co-operation between the two great branches of the English-speaking peoples in the Union and the Empire.

Books Across the Sea

By BEATRICE WARDE

Vice-President, Books Across the Sea Circle in England

Under the name of " Books Across the Sea," two counterpart societies of booklovers, with their respective headquarters in London and New York, have for the past four years been exchanging goodwill gifts of newly published books for better mutual understanding. When a new book about either country seems (to the expert Selectors) likely to prove a good " unconscious ambassador " across the Atlantic, a copy is purchased, inscribed with a collective greeting, and forwarded to the counterpart headquarters. There it is exhibited, discussed and briefly reviewed by a Reader Panel, and kept accessible to the

public. Since there would be no need to send back and forth books which are already in print on both sides of the Atlantic, the Societies confine their selections to books which have not yet been published outside the country of origin. Works of propaganda—books written " at " the foreigner—are debarred, and special attention is paid to the type of book which, though primarily written for home consumption, nevertheless helps a foreign reader to overcome misconceptions or gain a truer and more human insight into the country or people it portrays. In addition to these " discoveries," the Societies exchange outstanding new books of Verse, and Children's Books, irrespective of subject.

The New York headquarters (housed at Columbia University Library) now contains upwards of 2,000 British books about British life, customs and problems to-day—all published since 1941. On scores of occasions, researchers and publishers have found in the B.A.S. collection a British book of which no other copy could be located in America ; and since the General Election there has been particular interest in the shelves illustrating currents of political opinion in Britain.

The corresponding London headquarters, housed at No. 13, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, contains over 2,750 American books on the U.S.A., all published since 1940 and (for the most part) still " unknown " on this side. They include such enviable accessions as the W.P.A. *American Guides* Series (most items of which are now, tragically, out of print in America), the *Rivers of America* Series, the Rowe Peterson Basic Social Education Series of illustrated pamphlets, and many important schoolbooks and textbooks, as well as valuable collections on race problems, daily life and careers, women, regional cultures, etc., and nearly 500 outstanding juveniles.

On both sides, members borrow newly arrived books and, in lieu of fee, write out their informal personal reactions to each item. These reports are extremely illuminating, and have been studied with interest by prominent authors and publishers. Members may also nominate books about their own country as suitable " B.A.S. ambassadors." At present, each side sends across about forty books a month ; when the normal import-export traffic of books is re-opened the selection will be narrowed down so that only about ten books a month will receive the B.A.S. special recommendation. But additional books will be forwarded, then as now, on the chance that they may prove acceptable to the other side. This allows for the fact that no one can be quite sure what is going to interest and illuminate the reader abroad. Thus two years ago London sent to New York some Chatto and Windus " Midget Books " on the off-chance that they might prove amusing ; they roused such interest that New York had to send for several hundred extra copies to keep pace with the demand from public libraries.

What is new about " Books Across the Sea " is its fundamental assumption that the choice of books for better international understanding cannot suitably be entrusted solely to the country of origin. The native citizen knows best whether a book is true-to-life or true-to-scene, but he very seldom has any idea whether it will prove interesting and acceptable to a reader abroad. By exchanging reactions to each other's books, by avoiding the beaten track of the popular best-seller and concentrating on the " human sidelight " book, B.A.S. is demonstrating the principle of selection by mutual consultation which must sooner or later replace any system connected with national propaganda.

The combined membership does not exceed 2,000, and on both sides it is fairly evenly divided between laymen booklovers and professional bookmen, among whom librarians, authors and publishers predominate. Neither Society accepts any form of official or commercial subsidy : revenue is derived from membership subscriptions (which are on a sliding scale in order to give equal status to members of the underpaid professions of teaching and librarianship), and thanks to the goodwill of prominent men of letters and friends of Anglo-American understanding on both sides of the Atlantic, volunteer workers

have been found to carry on the activities at minimum running-cost. Members are kept posted on the latest selections by means of bulletins and retrospective book-lists.

B.A.S. is in some respects an extension, in terms of ordinary bookloving citizens, of the exchange system practised by certain famous libraries on each side of the Atlantic. It assumes and acts upon a community of culture and interest. The B.A.S. societies refuse to believe that only the " learned world " is capable of international comradeship : and the fact that the Societies have flourished under the severest war-time handicaps substantiates their faith in books as cultural common ground.

Professor Allan Nevins is President of B.A.S. in America ; Mr. T. S. Eliot of B.A.S. in Britain. Other officers and councillors include (America) : Mrs. May Lamberton Becker, Mr. Frederic G. Melcher, Dr. Luther Evans, Miss Charlotte Day (Secretary) ; and (Britain) : Professor Arthur Goodhart, K.C., Mr. John Hadfield, Mrs. Alicia Street, Miss Barbara Bonner (Secretary).

DISCUSSION

It had been hoped that the American Ambassador, the Honourable John G. Winant, would be able to speak at the opening of the symposium on " Links with the U.S.A.", but heavy pressure of work compelled him to send a message of regret a few days before the Conference. At this very short notice Sir Frederic Kenyon kindly consented to take the Chair. In the discussion the following took part : Miss Jeanette Taylor, Mr. G. D'Arcy Edmonson, Miss E. M. R. Ditmas, Mr. R. H. Hill, Mr. H. Jones, Mrs. L. K. Scott, Major W. E. Simnett, Mrs. Beatrice Warde, Mr. Edward J. Carter, Mr. C. Le Maistre, Mr. B. M. Headicar, Mr. A. B. Toth and Professor R. S. Hutton.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman expressed the Association's regret that the American Ambassador had not been able to be present. Sir Frederic said that the papers would be taken as read. Several of the authors had been unable to attend the meeting, but in a few instances other distinguished colleagues would introduce the papers.

Miss Jeanette Taylor, after apologising for the absence of Dr. Heindel in the States, said that the broader aspects of the Library were described in Dr. Heindel's paper ; she proposed to give some details. The Library, established in May, 1943, to serve America, Britain and Allied countries, dealt with enquiries from scientific and technical organisations, businesses, press and radio, and its stock had grown from one book to about 10,000 volumes, 15,000 pamphlets and 600 periodicals. No ticket of admission being required, it was open to the general public, and had space for eighteen readers. Many enquiries were received by telephone and by post from all parts of England, Ireland and the Continent. The Library was a general reference library on America, but had some books on other countries, mostly by Americans, the emphasis being on technical and Government publications. The Library had a wide range of enquirers, from Ministries to the prospective brides of American soldiers. There was available for lending a large number of trade catalogues of United States firms. The Library also contained some children's books and general text-books, as well as a collection of American music scores, and it was hoped soon to acquire the record collection owned by the American Broadcasting Service to Europe. A project for placing U.S. Government publications on sale at the Stationery Office had been organised, and would be in operation soon. The Office of War Information had been abolished, but United States information services would continue to function until 31st December. The Secretary of State had to survey all services abroad and to decide what was to happen to them. Miss Taylor thought it safe to say that the American Library would remain and would continue to supply full and free information on America.

Mr. E. D'Arcy Edmonson, speaking as Dr. Heindel's opposite number in New York, said that detailed information concerning B.I.S. was given in Mr. Dalgoutte's paper. He wanted to speak about the ideal behind the idea. It was significant that this was the anniversary of September 15th, 1940, when the Battle of Britain was fought over London. If future Battles of Britain, or of America, were to be avoided, everyone must realise in future years the importance of the links between the United States and Great Britain. Each must play their part towards co-operation by the closest possible interchange of information. During the last few years the main flow of information supplied to press, radio, etc., had been about the British war effort. We were facing a big change and moving towards wider fields, and it was information on the British economic and financial position which was now required. The development of Britain's plans for Social Security, welfare and education were being closely studied, and so, too, were her plans for contributing to the security and prosperity of the world. Co-operation between the United States and Great Britain was the corner stone of security throughout the world.

Miss E. M. R. Ditmas said that no direct representative of the Special Libraries Association was present, but the President of Aslib had received from the Executive Office of that Association the following letter :

31, *East Tenth Street, New York*, 3, *New York*
August 23, 1945

Sir Frederic Kenyon, President,
Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux,
*London, W.C.*1, *England.*

Sir,

Special Libraries Association extends to the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux greetings and best wishes for the 1945 *Conference.*

We have admired the splendid manner in which your Association has carried on under the handicaps and trying conditions of the war years. May the experience gained in that difficult period serve you to good advantage in the years of peace.

We hope your Conference is most successful and that the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux continues to gain the prestige it so well deserves.

Cordially yours,

(*Signed*) *BETTY JOY-COLE,*
President-Elect, Special Libraries Association.

This expression of S.L.A. goodwill was received by the meeting with acclamation, and it was stated that a message of thanks and good wishes would be sent in reply. Miss Ditmas then quoted from the paper the paragraph concerning the *Bulletin* of library news in the special libraries field,* referred to the Subject Headings scheme in preparation (to be sent to libraries in other countries), and also mentioned that A B C in the paper† referred to the American Book Centre, not to the American and British-Commonwealth Association.

Mr. R. H. Hill gave a summary of the chief means whereby the N.C.L. had tried to further understanding of the United States. The Bureau of American Bibliography began at the N.C.L. eighteen months before the war. The large Library of Congress Catalogue, taken from London two or three days before the outbreak of war, had now been returned to Malet Place, for resumption of the work as soon as possible. During the war the N.C.L. had arranged for the loan of books from their own stock to individual units of the American Army and to the American Army College. He had recently heard of a plan formed in a city in New Jersey to commemorate the visit of thirty-three British evacuee children : it was proposed to place in different centres in this country thirty-three collections of children's books, as a permanent memorial to Mrs. Helen Barret Spears, who had taken great interest in the evacuee children. These books would be distributed to public, country and village libraries.

Mr. H. Jones had nothing to add to Mr. McColvin's paper, which was a factual statement, but he wished to underline the third and the last paragraphs. He stressed the value of personal contacts with the U.S.A., and hoped that the interchange of opinions and ideas would bear fruit in the future. When the American Library School was established at Oberammergau, facilities were given for the use of Libraries and Information Bureaux in London, and text-books on the teaching of Librarianship were lent. Loans had also been made to the U.S. Army College at Shrivenham. Leave courses were organised for U.S. soldiers attached to public and special libraries to gain experience. The first course was already completed, and a number of very appreciative comments had been received.

With regard to Dr. Richard Johnson's notes on Exchanges of Staff and Students, the Chairman said that a scheme for exchange of students was being planned and a number of partnerships between universities in both countries had been arranged already, but no details could yet be published.

Mrs. L. K. Scott, who conveyed Miss Ford's regret for absence, said she herself was not qualified to speak on the Exchange of Teachers, but would speak of the Youth Committee. The English-Speaking Union, established 1918, was the oldest and largest Anglo-American society, and had a sister society which was operating on parallel lines in the U.S.A. Interchange of teachers came to an end, owing to difficulties in transport, when war broke out.

* See page 35, line 29 † See page 34

In 1942 the Youth Committee was set up to put America across to the young people of Great Britain aged 14–20 on leaving school. Magnificent help had been given by B.A.S., the American Library, the N.C.L. and others. The Committee had organised twenty-one youth conferences and 350 supplementary meetings, ranging in size from fifty to 1,000, throughout the country. American speakers, films, book displays and book lists had been provided. Altogether some 46,000 young people had been reached. The headquarters at Dartmouth House contain the Page Memorial Library, which badly needs overhaul. A very small library of books, especially on American education, had been started and these were available to the general public. Recreational and cultural activities were arranged for U.S. troops. Since the end of 1941 they had arranged informal meetings between scientists of the British Commonwealth and the United States.

Major W. E. Simnett pointed out that A B C was really A B C A, but the A had been dropped to avoid confusion with the Army Bureau of Current Affairs. He referred to the pamphlets mentioned in his paper, and said that these were the shortest pamphlets available on the subject. Plans for an Anglo-American Library of Reference had been prepared in some detail, but work on the scheme was stopped when the American Library was formed under Dr. Heindel. Major Simnett was glad to learn that some continued activity on the part of that admirable institution seemed assured. Whether A B C would do anything of their own had not yet been decided. Their object was to build up an organisation for some sort of systematic connections between scientific, professional and other bodies in this country and America. Although some bodies in both countries were active, there were gaps, and in many ways contacts were only haphazard. A B C had been active in arranging the official celebration of Thanksgiving Day in this country. Last year this took place in the Albert Hall, and Mr. Churchill and Mr. Winant were both present. They were doing the same this year. He hoped that in future this celebration would become an Anglo-American Thanksgiving Day, superseding Armistice Day. It was hoped also to form an Anglo-American Institute of Cultural Studies. Referring to the English-Speaking Union, Major Simnett said that there were other still older bodies, e.g. Pilgrims and American Outpost.

Mrs. Beatrice Warde said she was glad the previous speaker had mentioned American Outpost. Books Across the Sea was the outgrowth of American Outpost in this country, established to counteract German propaganda, and had a sister organisation in the U.S.A. Centres in London and New York had been exchanging new books for the past four years, which would promote a better understanding of both countries. Since 1942, two flourishing Regional Circles of Books Across the Sea—one in Boston, Mass. and the other in Edinburgh—had been carrying on their own parallel exchange as autonomous bodies, maintaining their own reading-rooms and exchanging their own gifts of books, travelling-exhibitions, etc. Further " opposite-number " Regional Circles would be formed and " paired-off " across the Atlantic during the coming year. Mrs. Warde described B.A.S. as a very human and anti-red tape organisation, and a good example of team work by volunteers. A readers' panel had been formed in both countries to report on books. It was interesting to collect ordinary people's reactions in both countries, as opposed to those of the professional reviewer. Mrs. Warde mentioned as an example of a back-ground and side-lights book—" Where do people take their troubles ? "

Mr. Edward J. Carter, surveying the whole field covered by this symposium, mentioned Aslib's special contacts with the United States. Mr. Besterman, the Editor of the *Journal of Documentation*, was in the U.S. at that moment in his capacity of Editor of the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals. There had been a very definite link with the U.S. in the production of this Catalogue. Mr. Besterman would develop contacts, as he would be seeing members of the Library of Congress, the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, etc. Aslib also maintained very cordial relations with the Rockefeller Foundation, who had given financial assistance in the development of the Union Catalogue and the Microfilm Service. Speaking of the difficulties experienced in getting books from America, Mr. Carter suggested that institutions could develop their own private lease-lend arrangements. Thus, R.I.B.A. had an arrangement with the library of the Department of Architecture of Harvard University. The R.I.B.A. obtained British books for Harvard of which there was very little advance notice given and which were soon out of print. Harvard performed exactly the same service for the R.I.B.A. Each relied on the expert advice which they could give to one another. Mr. Carter said that American State Libraries, e.g. the U.S. Department of Agriculture, had amazing bibliographical services, in advance of Great Britain. He thought a regular service of these specialised bibliographies produced in the U.S. was desirable. The Anglo-Soviet Cultural Relations had wished to form a union list of books in the Russian language in Great Britain. Through the kindness of Dr. Heindel they have been given a list of books prepared for the Library of Congress, and a check list of Russian holdings in U.S. libraries. Finally, British librarians visiting the States should look out for one of the most interesting libraries anywhere in the world. Professor John Burchardt had been appointed Director of the library at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He had set up an experimental library where he would try out various schemes, such as Fremont Rider's scheme for microprint cards, etc. Mr. Carter added that at the close of the meeting he hoped to put the following resolution :

> " That this Conference, realising the supreme importance of the mutual exchange of information between the English-speaking nations, recommends that Aslib should

co-operate with library organisations in the United States in the compilation of a directory showing those organisations in the U.S.A. and Great Britain whose information services cover similar fields of interest."

Mr. C. Le Maistre said that, in visiting America a year ago as a member of a British delegation, he had heard one British delegate say : " I always feel that America is a foreign country whose language we more or less understand." An American replied that he had to ask the meaning of so many words when in Great Britain. He himself had found the same thing. Many years ago Lord Balfour did interest himself in the suggestion that, in order to bring our two languages together, some effort ought to be made towards bringing together those who compiled our dictionaries. Mr. Le Maistre thought it desirable to form an Anglo-American committee which would hold meetings in America and in England to bring out a new Anglo-American dictionary. He hoped that some people on the highest level would consider this suggestion.

Mr. B. M. Headicar said that among those present was Mr. Toth of the American Embassy, who was here in order to get together a really practical scheme for the exchange of publications of all kinds. Anyone, therefore, who had any duplicates or any publications to be scrapped should get into touch with Mr. Toth.

Mr. A. B. Toth said that he hoped to bring about an exchange of publications between Government agencies in Washington and institutions in London. If anyone had lists of missing publications, they should send these to him for submission to Washington. It might take six months to obtain anything, but was worth trying. He would like to visit libraries and call attention to some U.S. publications, e.g. *U.S. Quarterly Booklist*. He would be glad to answer questions on the Library of Congress. Correspondence should be addressed to him, c/o The Embassy, 5, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

Professor R. S. Hutton, referring to Dr. Heindel's paper, welcomed the opportunity of being able to purchase American Government publications through the Stationery Office in the future. For at least thirty-five years he had constantly tried to achieve this object. Referring to Mr. McColvin's paper and the pre-history of the American Library in London, Professor Hutton said that at an Aslib tea-party in March, 1942, he had told Mr. Archibald McLeish of his ambition to have American Government publications available in London. He hoped, therefore, that Aslib had played some part in stimulating the American Government into giving us the American Library in London.

Mr. Carter's resolution was then put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*

Problems of Information Service in Industry

By ERIC N. SIMONS

Publicity Manager, Edgar Allen and Co., Ltd., Sheffield

As a relative newcomer to the Council of Aslib, though a very old member and attender of the Conferences, I have observed closely certain differences of experience and outlook between myself and my fellow members, and I propose here to express, for our common benefit, those differences as I see them. Fundamentally they arise from the difference between the two sections of the country, North and South. So it seems to me that the best way of expressing these differences is to put them in the form of the problems confronting an Information Officer in the North, contrasted with those his Southern counterpart has to face. The two sets of problems are not wholly unrelated. Some of those met with in the North are common also to the South and vice versa. Nevertheless, there is a sufficient dissimilarity in certain of their difficulties to afford a basis for my present survey.

Taking the Information Service as our starting point, let me indicate first what fundamentally differentiates the task of the Information Service Officer in the North from that of his colleague in the South. The South is generally regarded by us Northerners as having a more leisured way of life, a rather easier time, and a better climate than we enjoy. In addition, there is in the South a much closer concentration of academic people, a wider culture, and a more developed tradition of learning, than in the industrial districts of the North. Moreover, in the South lies London with its vast resources and institutions, all of which promote, for many miles around, a greater appreciation of the existence and value of information. In the North the position is quite different. Virtually, the only circles there of academic culture are the Universities, and these usually constitute exclusive islands of aloof people, who do not mix to any extent with the industrial life of the community, have little idea of its problems, and apart from a handful of scientific and technical professors and lecturers, make little impact upon the minds of the ordinary industrial worker, manager or director. In the North the University, on its technical side, is often regarded by the industrialist as a charity school for the production of low-paid junior technical staff. Its cultural and academic aspects are regarded as frills and fripperies. It is assumed that having had a University education, a young graduate who joins a particular firm on the technical side should know all that is necessary. The suggestion that an organisation should be built up on the premises to provide constant contact between the technical staff and sources of information outside the boundaries of the works is regarded with suspicion and scorn. What is the good, the argument goes, of our paying for Universities to teach these fellows, when no sooner do they get here than they want to go on learning at our expense ?

I am fully aware of the exceptions to this broad and sweeping generalisation. I have been through the remarkably efficient Information Department of Metropolitan-Vickers Limited, in Manchester, and others on the same lines could be mentioned, but I am dealing here with the ordinary industrialist I meet and talk to up and down the North country. As a regular writer for the Ministry of Information and the British Council, I meet and talk to many in the course of a year.

Perhaps the attitude of the type of northerner I describe to information and books can best be summarized in a rather stale anecdote told of a Sheffield manufacturer. When his son was twenty-one, husband and wife discussed what form the boy's birthday present should take. The wife suggested a nice book, to which the husband replied in astonishment : " A book ? Why, he's got one already ! " Amusing and exaggerated though this may be, it does represent a state of mind both real and alarming. Real, indeed ; I continually encounter it

in daily life among those around me; alarming, for that mental attitude will not help Britain to retain her place in the world as a technical producer.

Thus, there is this marked difference between the problems of an Information Officer in the South dealing with men and women aware of information, appreciating the need for it, and able to make use of it, and those of the Information Officer in the North dealing with men and women unaware of the need for information, on the whole hostile to books and what books contain, and often completely incapable of making use of information when it is given to them. This may sound a somewhat severe indictment of my fellow Northerners, and natural vanity and cussedness are sure to cause some Northerner in this Conference to rise and tell me I am slandering a kindly, hospitable, good natured, hard working and intelligent folk. No one is more aware than I of the good qualities of the Northerner, nor is anyone more conscious of, and grateful for, the many exceptions represented by Northern members of Aslib. I must, however, state the problem as I see it, and leave it to those who differ from me to put forward the opposing view.

The first problem, therefore, with which an industrial Information Officer in the North is confronted is to persuade those for whom he works, including, sometimes, members of his own Board of Management, that an Information Service has value, not because it provides a soft job for some long-haired, academic, useless person, but because without a constant stream of up-to-date information on methods, manufacture, materials, etc., no modern technical manufactory can hold its own and retain for Britain the industrial supremacy that made her great in the past. Even when, owing to the enlightenment and foresight of a Board of Directors, an Information Service has been inaugurated, it is often found that in certain directions open hostility exists to that Service, marked by expressions of contempt for it and what it does. Petty criticisms arise, and every item of expense is scrutinized, so that life may become a real burden for the unfortunate Information Officer. This, I am glad to say, has not been my own experience, but it has been the experience of other Information Officers of my acquaintance. Moreover, in times of economic depression, the Information Service is often one of the first services to be axed. Obviously, then, the job of the Information Officer is not going to be easy when he is faced, as indicated, with hostility from above, a good deal of indifference on his own level, and complete unawareness below.

How soon technical managements become conscious of good work done by their Information Services is largely a matter of luck. In one instance an important Japanese invention was first brought to the notice of a group of manufacturers by an Information Officer of one of them, with the result that cables were despatched to Japan, and negotiations for the purchase of certain manufacturing rights initiated and carried through successfully. This immediately brought that particular Information Service into the limelight, and was responsible for its receiving, from that moment, full sanction and warm support from the Chairman of the Company concerned. In another instance, a technical Director, presented with a competent translation of an article on a rather unusual subject, declared it the only one on the subject that had ever taught him anything he did not already know in that field, and praised the organisation that had laid it on his desk. Such instances as these are, I repeat, lucky and rare. An Information Officer may go on for years without ever knowing how far his work is appreciated.

It has, therefore, been my constant endeavour at meetings of the Council and of the Public Relations Committee to impress upon the leaders of Aslib the importance of carrying on, in the provinces, propaganda, not only for Aslib as a body, but also for the establishment of Information Services in all works of sufficient size to warrant it, and if possible for groups of smaller works of similar type. I am convinced that until some authoritative voice can be heard from time to time preaching the gospel of the value of information at gatherings of Northern industrialists, and proclaiming the need for its regular

dissemination, the task of the Northern Information Officer will be hard. The ordinary industrialist has still to be convinced that what he reads in his daily newspaper or his trade or technical journal does not constitute the entire body of scientific and technical knowledge, and that long first-hand acquaintance with a particular industry is not the equivalent of encyclopaedic knowledge.

Thus far I have dealt with the problem of the Information Officer in industry as affected by the outlook of the directive bodies for whom he works, or for whom he may wish to work. I will assume that after a time he has succeeded in persuading enlightened manufacturers that he can do something for them, and for industry, that badly needs to be done. Having inaugurated his service, his next difficulty will be to convince the men to whom he is providing information that what he gives them is worth their while to examine. There is, with many technical staffs, a reluctance to admit that the printed word can teach them something. This attitude is not so prevalent as it was 10 or 15 years ago. Nevertheless, it still exists, and generally it is the attitude of men who pride themselves on being "practical." They have usually started from scratch as boys, and by actually working up to and doing the job have learned a good deal about it. They are admirable fellows in every way, and I have no other criticism than this to make of them. They know a good deal that is certainly not to be found in any text book. They are often past masters of their craft. Unfortunately however, the world does not stand still, even in the particular branch of industry in which they are expert. New discoveries in both materials and methods that radically alter the basis of production in their sphere are outlined in the technical press. Journals and scientific papers contain, from time to time, hints from other practical men that they never see. Books embodying wide experience, or describing new developments and processes, lie unopened, as far as they are concerned, on their local library shelves. Gradually, with all their skill, with all their practical knowledge, they find themselves left behind by a changing world, and they wonder why. How is the Information Officer to convince these diehards that books and technical periodicals have value *for them*. Everything that is novel is dismissed by these men as mere theory.

Their first reaction when a written paper is put before them is to look for the name of the writer rather than for what he has written. If they remember him as a man whose politics they do not like, or who has in the past trodden on their toes, they cannot be bothered to, or will not, read what he has written. If they do not know him, they are convinced that what he knows is not worth knowing, and if they do know him, and have nothing against him, then they are most reluctant to admit that he can teach them anything about their job. Here one is confronted by human vanity.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to contradict them. Many books and articles are published each year that could have been left unpublished without harm to technical progress. In this respect the work done by Aslib is of the greatest value to the Information Service Officer, because it ensures that he draws the attention of his technical staff only to books of genuine merit and importance.

How to overcome this snobbery of the practical man in regard to books and printed information, I have not yet discovered. I present this difficulty in the hope that a solution will be forthcoming from some member of this Conference. I am vain enough to wish that I could tell my audience I had the invaluable recipe for persuading these hard-headed men to read; but I cannot. In fact, there are occasions when I wonder if some of them can read at all. Do not let these remarks lead someone to accuse me of dismissing all practical men as illiterate or unresponsive to information. I do nothing of the kind; but I do say that some of these fundamentally practical men constitute one of the most difficult problems the Information Officer in the North has to face, simply because they not only refuse to recognise value in his work, but also try to convince others that it is valueless.

The next problem confronting the industrial Information Officer is the

reluctance of those for whom he works to make personal use of local centres of information. As I see it, the task of the Information Officer is not primarily to read for people, but to direct them to reading. Many requests are received by an Information Officer from his colleagues for books, pamphlets, etc., on technical subjects. Knowing that this material is available at a local library, he advises them to this effect, but it seems to be assumed that it is his job to go to the library himself and take out the volumes. Being usually a helpful person, he often does so. I myself have many times staggered home with an attaché case full of books, and toiled down with it next day to the works. It seems to be considered undignified for a technical man to visit his local library, even if he knows that the book he wants is there. Partly it is laziness, the reluctance to pull up his car or get off a tram-car and call ; partly vanity, the dislike of making a public admission that his knowledge is incomplete, and that one can learn something from a book ; and partly shyness, resulting from complete inexperience in using library services. Where managers live at points remote from the city and do not have occasion to go into it, it is not unreasonable for them to ask the Information Officer to obtain what they want, but in most other instances it is far better they should fetch it for themselves. The problem is how to make them. It is really astonishing how reluctant technical men are to enter a public or other library. I have known them on many occasions go without the book they wanted rather than apply for it. Here again, the excellent propaganda and publicity work of the public libraries is modifying this state of mind, but it still exists ; doubtless many librarians here will have experienced it, and may be able to suggest a cure.

My own theory is that it dates from those dark ages when to obtain a book from a public library was generally an ordeal comparable to that of suggesting possible conference speakers to an Aslib Council meeting ; but also there is a little snobbery in it, some people being reluctant to let it be thought that they obtain their books from what they regard as a public charity.

Another practical problem, which has given me great worry in the past, though by a process of careful education I have reduced it to relatively insignificant proportions, is the tendency of some senior members of technical staffs to assume (1) that journals and books purchased by the organisation to which they belong are thenceforward their own personal property, and are not to be available for use by their juniors (2) that it is quite in order for them to take this material home and keep it there (3) that it is extremely unwise that juniors should have access to this material, as they might then consider themselves equal in knowledge to seniors (4) that as men of great importance, they have a perfect right to retain material for as long as they like, even though other senior staff officials also need a sight of it in connection with their duties.

The distinction between mine and thine is, in the minds of some persons, non-existent when applied to printed matter. This springs, in a measure, from that contempt for books I have earlier indicated as a characteristic of certain Northern industrial types. Obviously, if books in general are considered valueless, then who owns a particular book cannot be a matter of importance. As the book has been bought by the firm for John Smith, then John Smith can do what he likes with it, and why should anyone question this right ? The idea that the book was bought primarily to aid the *department* over which John Smith presides and should, therefore, be available for members of that department as well as its head, simply does not penetrate into John Smith's mind. He quite honestly sees nothing wrong in his monopolization of that particular book or journal. Some years ago, I remember, I purchased, on behalf of my firm, a valuable and highly instructive book on a steel subject. It was passed first to the manager of the corresponding department, who took it home. For once in a way he had found a book that could teach him something. The book was not returned, and no amount of personal representation or protest could ever get it back. Other departments would have derived great benefit from it, but this fact made no impression whatsoever on the person concerned. He did

more work in this particular direction than anybody else on the firm, and refused to admit that anyone else had a right to see it. If they wanted it, the firm must buy them a copy.

In the normal course no firm of importance begrudges the purchase of several copies of a valuable book. It is the attitude of mind that I attack. There are occasions—especially to-day—when further copies of a valuable book are not immediately procurable, or it may be that the purchase of an extra copy for occasional reference would not be warranted. In my view books should be available for general consultation whoever has them in his keeping. This, however, is easier to proclaim than to achieve. In fact, I will go so far as to say that the principal motive for installing an Information Service at one large works was to break this habit of senior officials of assuming they alone were privileged to receive information, and that their staffs must be kept from all access to material provided by the firm. The long delays that sometimes occur in the circulation of technical journals are often the result of this attitude, though more often they are caused by procrastination, and that general dislike of reading felt by many technical men, who put off the evil task from day to day. Sometimes, of course, the busy man's lack of time causes delays, but this difficulty can always be overcome if the official concerned will agree to transfer his name from high on the list to a lower position, so that he gets the journal later, when he will presumably have more time to read it.

One of the best ways of speeding up the circulation of a technical journal is to delete from the list for a period the name of an official consistently bad in this respect. If, at the end of, e.g., three months, he has not noticed the omission, then it is safe to say that he is not reading that journal, and his name, if restored to the list at all, can be placed at the end, where he cannot hold up the circulation. If he does notice the omission, one can then explain the cause, i.e. the irritation in all directions arising from his neglect; in nine instances out of ten there will then be a marked improvement. Of course, one has to know one's man before taking drastic action of this kind, but in my experience the high officials, such as directors, general managers, etc., are seldom guilty of delay. It is usually men of lower grade who give the trouble.

I am bound to confess that at my own works, and despite many years of active propaganda, no works library exists, though plans for one have been drawn up. This does not mean there are no books about the place. I have a small collection, the Research department has a collection, and various Directors and Managers have their own departmental collections; but there is no centralized library properly staffed and equipped. This is a lamentable state of affairs, but the reasons for it probably apply in many other large works.

A good deal of British industry was not planned as a whole; it grew up, little bits being tacked on here and there, as the need arose and as opportunity afforded. The Edgar Allen works comprise a series of long chains of shops covering in all some 40 odd acres, and extending in straight lines for about a mile and a half. One section lies on the far side of a canal, and to reach the only foot-bridge over this canal involves a wide detour, so that it takes about 15 minutes to reach the Head Office from this particular section. The same could be said of other portions of the long chain. In consequence of this peculiar and unplanned works layout, the first problem confronting the Board of Directors when they consider a works library is its location. If placed in the Head Office it will be a long way from quick consultation by the majority of technical staff. In fact, wherever it was located it would be difficult for busy men to reach it in a minimum of time, owing to the peculiar layout of the works. The idea of a *central* special building might have been entertained in pre-war days, but at the present time is out of the question. I shall be interested to know whether a similar problem has confronted other industrial representatives who are attending this Conference, and, if so, how it has been solved. It has hitherto proved the stumbling block in the way of all attempts to inaugurate an Edgar Allen works library, and even the proposed solution is a compromise.

There remains a further works library problem, one often overlooked, but nevertheless real. Unquestionably, during the last ten years there has been a marked decline in public morality, particularly as regards thieving. I do not know if others have had the same experience, but whereas 15 years ago if one accidentally mislaid a fountain pen, rule, or other personal possession in the shops, it was usually restored by some honest workman within a very short time. To-day the position is quite different. One lays down pen-knife or pen, turns aside to speak to a foreman or manager, and when one next looks round, the article has disappeared, and never returns. Whereas at one time I could leave my desk unlocked all night, in complete security, to-day I have to lock it even in the luncheon hour. This epidemic of petty thieving extends on an increasingly large scale to books. Some years ago the Information Service of my Company, in view of the immediate impossibility of instituting a centralised works library, obtained directorial permission for certain collections of books to be made available to members of the staff, subject to the usual rules and regulations. What was the result? The attention of certain persons was directed to the fact that there existed on the premises a number of quite valuable books on various subjects. At the end of a week few applications had been made for the loan of these books, but quite a number had disappeared, and were never returned. In other words there had been a considerable amount of common thieving, not by workmen, but by members of the staff. This would have been incredible twenty years ago. To-day it is a commonplace.

Thus, the Information Officer seeking to inaugurate a works library is faced with the problem of how to prevent these thefts. The public library is better placed in this respect, because it has a different administrative technique, and a greater experience in dealing with the public. In most works it is always possible for the inevitably small library staff to be circumvented by the cunning and unscrupulous rogue. I shall be interested to know whether this problem has been encountered in other industrial works libraries, and how it has been overcome.

Thus far I have dealt with what I may term the internal problems, but other problems arise of external character. It frequently happens that a Research department, or an important official, requires a sight of some book or journal for guidance in the work he is doing. This journal is obtained through some library. The period for which it is allowed to be retained is, however, often too short. After, perhaps, 10 days a request for its return arrives. The Information Officer recovers the journal or book from the Research Officer, returns it to the library, and then has to go through the formality of getting it back again, in order that the work for which it is required may be continued. When enquiry is made of the lending source, it is found that these requests for the return of the journal concerned are made as a matter of routine by some clerk in its office. It would often be a convenience to both research worker and Information Officer if requests for the return of borrowed journals were made at longer intervals or only when actual need for the material was experienced at the lending source. I am aware that objections can be made to this suggestion, but all I am concerned with here is to point out how the matter strikes the man at the industrial end.

Let us assume, for example, that a paper has been published giving the results of a series of important tests on a particular steel. The Research department of the borrowing firm may wish to carry, or may be carrying, out similar tests in order to verify the published results. These tests are not completed in a matter of minutes, and a stage by stage comparison of the reported results may be necessary. This is but one example of many. Not every firm possesses photostatic equipment for copying the original texts, nor where photostatic instruments exist is it always possible to have the material photographed at the time required. There is often so much urgent work to be done in the photostatic department that it may be some considerable time before the required textual copies can be made. It may be argued that a typed copy of the text could be

made, but this would often be useless without the illustrations, and in any event typing staff are often overloaded as it is.

I must here express my appreciation of the courtesy of the commercial and technical section of the Sheffield Public Library, who show a marked understanding of the technical man's problems, are always willing to lend material, and never, once they are aware of the reliability of the borrower, plague him with repeated routine requests for its return. For my part I make it a point of honour to return to them immediately any book or journal for which they have another request, and any material no longer required, if it is in my possession, knowing that the moment it is free again I shall have it if I want it. I commend their practice to other libraries whose names I hope nobody will ask me to give.

The next difficulty I have is that of obtaining translations of important articles in foreign technical journals within a reasonable period of time. I know how difficult war conditions have been, and I know, too, the shortage of staff, the difficulty of finding competent translators, and the great difficulty, in many instances, of obtaining these foreign journals. Nevertheless, taking all into account, I still find it extraordinary that some bodies should take 4 or 5 months to provide a translation of an article, in a journal one knows them already to possess, whereas others operate with much greater celerity. Perhaps there are internal difficulties over and above those I have already mentioned which make the prompt provision of translations difficult. I know that in desperate urgency one can get a translation made oneself, a translation whose merit will vary with the skill and experience of the person making it ; but this is merely to duplicate work. No one expects a perfect translation accompanied by the reproduction of illustrations in 5 minutes, but 5 months, as in my experience is not uncommon, is another matter altogether. By the time the translation is received, even if interest in it has not evaporated, the particular technical problem it was hoped to solve by reading it may have been solved in other ways, or may have ceased to exist. I am hopeful that the librarians present at this Conference will be able to explain satisfactorily why the translations some of them provide for their collective readers should take so long to produce.

We have still, I presume, the panel of expert translators recommended by Aslib, and with more men of alien race in our midst than ever before, one would have thought it easier to obtain translations to-day than 15 years ago, when, if my memory is correct, the Aslib expert panel was either non-existent, or only in process of formation. I am not putting this forward in a critical manner, but merely as a somewhat puzzled Information Officer anxious to solve his problems, and without a convincing explanation to give to those who rely upon him of the delay in obtaining good translations of urgently needed material.

While on this point, I wish to incorporate with it, as a still unsolved problem, the hostility with which some industrial firms receive the suggestion that they should form a common pool of translations of technical material. In my own city it has proved quite impossible to institute a collective translation pool, as an addition to our interchange scheme for books and journals. I think the reason is that each firm is reluctant to let its competitors know it is interested in a particular technical field. For example, a maker of permanent magnets and magnet alloys might have worried a year or two ago about letting his competitors know he was interested in powder metallurgy, now being applied to the manufacture of certain types of magnets. In this competitive industrial world there is something to be said for this point of view, but I still feel that of the translations individual firms make for their own use, 75 per cent. at least could be placed in a common pool for the use of the members of the pool without any harm to the firm's own interests.

I shall be glad to know if such a translation pool exists in any other city or district, and if so, how the problems have been overcome, and what is the attitude of the firms concerned towards the scheme.

I now come to the problem likely to produce the greatest amount of dis-

cussion (and dissension) of all I have so far enumerated. This is the problem of Aslib itself. I have nothing but respect and admiration for the organisation, for what it does, and the way it does it, but, and it is by no means an unimportant but, it has one serious weakness. This is particularly alluded to in my opening remarks, where I referred to the difference between North and South. It seems to me that Aslib, or at least its governing body, does not sufficiently realise the conditions those of us who work well away from London have to face. It does not sufficiently appreciate the enormous difference between the library and the industry, or industries, it serves. Not unnaturally, by reason of the high percentage of special librarians of academic, governmental or tutorial bodies in its membership, it overstresses the librarianship aspect at the expense, often, of the industrial.

Frankly, I think it would be a very good thing if those of its members located in London and with relatively few direct contacts with the industrial North would make a special point of visiting the industrial districts for themselves, either collectively, or individually. I find it sometimes a little difficult to obtain a hearing when I put forward this point of view round the Council table, and I have, on occasion, felt that I was being what the Americans term so expressively " high hatted," because I ventured to suggest that the purely academic outlook of some members militated against both an understanding of our problems, and an extension of our industrial membership. I am always conscious of the fact that primarily it was on the initiative of a number of large industrial firms in the North that I was nominated for the Council, and the reason for this nomination was precisely that these firms felt their problems and point of view were not receiving the attention they deserved in London.

I am only too well aware that a more expert and able nomination might have been made, and that possibly a Yorkshireman of blunt and aggressive bearing might have done more than I to drive his points home at Council meetings. As a Warwickshireman I am forever tainted with the Southerner's belief in courtesy and calm.

Hitherto this problem has been worded vaguely, but I hope to define it more closely in the next few lines. I should have liked to begin, had it been possible, by taking a census of the members of Aslib who have actually experienced regular first-hand contact with a works, and when I say " a works " I do not mean merely the Head Office in London, or the Research Department at the top of some lofty ivory tower. I mean the clangorous, toiling shops packed with plant, among which so many of us Northerners spend our lives. It is difficult for the academic person to appreciate the great gap between his environment and that of which I speak. Aslib's real field is among the people who use and require information, as well as those who provide it. In other words, the potential power of Aslib (whose name I would change if I had my way), is lying undeveloped under an academic crust, because the bulk of its members lack familiarity with the possibilities that lie before it. In an article I once wrote for the Ministry of Information on the work of Aslib, I referred to it as " a lobe of the world brain." That is what it should be, and what I have hopes it may be, but it is still only in process of becoming. For example, I do not think that Aslib should regard itself, as it so often does, primarily as a cousin of the Library Association. I am not being disrespectful to special librarians when I say that many representatives of our large firms belong to Aslib, not because they are librarians, but because they regard it as a centre from which radiates, or should radiate, highly specialized information about information; they also expect from it a recognition of the type of information required, and a stimulus to its acquisition.

The Conference programme, for example, should contain at least 50 per cent. of papers that cover not minor aspects of a special librarian's job but problems of wide industrial interest, in which *information and its value* is the key note, as well as the technique of its collection and classification. I remember putting forward in discussion at an Aslib conference many years ago, a whole string of

potential subjects that could and ought to be discussed at future conferences ; but, if I remember rightly, only one of these subjects was ever tackled. It must be realised that a large industrial organisation does not belong to Aslib because it has idealistic yearnings to maintain an admirable body of cultured and efficient special librarians in their jobs. It joins Aslib, bluntly and without glamour, for what it can get out of it, and what it can get out of it is precisely what Aslib should put into it : that is, material of industrial interest, material that convinces hard-headed business men it is worth paying for. This is not to debase or circumscribe Aslib, but to enlarge and develop it.

When I receive a list of papers proposed for the Aslib conference, I go through it, and pick out those of sufficient value to warrant my attending the conference on behalf of my employers. I do not wish to cut out all the material of interest to librarians as librarians, but there has always been a tendency, both verbal and actual, to concentrate more on the library end than on the industrial end, and this is, to my mind, all wrong. There is a tendency, also, to believe that in some way it is undignified for Aslib to proclaim itself aggressively and actively up and down the country. When I have suggested that officials should come North, and preach the gospel of information where it is most required, I have experienced a sensation somewhat similar to that which greets me when I open the door of my domestic refrigerator. The atmosphere becomes, in short, a trifle chilly. This may be unjust, but I can only give my impressions, and if these are wrong, or unfounded, there will be ample opportunity for you to say so.

To sum up, the problem I present as my concluding example is that of making Aslib conscious of its function as an advocate and exponent of the value of information to British industry, and as a central medium whereby information may be obtained, and the search for it encouraged. I feel that this is a far greater and more important function than that of merely telling librarians how to do their job, and what sort of card index or photostatic machine to buy. I want to see Aslib showing signs that it understands and wishes to strengthen its relation to industry. Its greatest field for extension undoubtedly lies in industry itself, and it is, I am afraid, letting its opportunity slip. I shall not be satisfied until I see members of the governing body actively visiting and making acquaintance with the industrial organisations whose subscriptions they receive, and whose work and conditions it is vital they should understand.

Aslib speakers ought to be regularly addressing Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and Sales Managers' Associations, giving lectures to bankers, chartered accountants, solicitors' associations, municipal officers' associations, etc. Aslib publications ought to include sets of brochures entitled " Value and Sources of Information for the Steel Industry," for the Cotton Industry—for the Textile Industry—for the Chemical Industry, and so on and so forth, and these ought to be on show in every public library, and on sale to every firm. There are dozens of ways in which Aslib could make industry more aware of it, and, at the same time, co-operate with and help it. Before it can do this, however, it must shed its library and academic complex.

I will let you into a little secret. The first time I attended an Aslib conference, I was panic-stricken. There seemed to be so many clever people about, each one an expert, that for a long time I was afraid to open my mouth. It was only after stage fright had worn off that I began to realise these very clever people—I will mention no names—had extraordinary gaps in their knowledge, and these gaps, as I began to see, were often much more serious than the more obvious and numerous gaps in my own knowledge. The things of which I was ignorant at that time were largely things that could be acquired from books, or that only a prolonged period of living could teach, but the things some of the other people did not know formed part of the very basis of life. Yet when, as the years went by, I began to raise my voice, and say gently that quite a considerable range of essential experience lay outside the four walls of a Library, Research Institution, or Museum, I felt that I was, on the whole, making myself unpopular,

giving an impression of irrepressible Northern vulgarity, and as one who was not a Northerner born, I resented the implication that I was one. It was conveyed to me, in tones whose mellifluence I should never dream of questioning, that industry was something not quite—well, not quite "gentlemanly." I remember the pain with which one member learned that Sheffield was not primarily a centre for the manufacture of pocket knives, and the eyes closing with boredom that greeted me when I indicated some of the colossal industries of which Sheffield is the centre. I also remember the charming lady who told me she was not really interested in industry, yet I noticed that she left the conference in a car that could not have existed without it, and that certainly would probably never have come into being had there not been a city named Sheffield. Even my learned friend C. E. M. Joad comes to the microphone, broadcasts words of wisdom every other week, yet condemns and decries the achievements and triumphs of that science which alone has made it possible for him to tell us what he thinks. All this may sound like carping criticism of a highly intellectual and useful body, but I assure you it is intended to be constructive and not destructive.

Academic unawareness is a disease that creeps upon one very gradually; I see it at very close quarters in my working city; and you must not blame me if, coming from a place where human nature is seen in all its wonderful and terrible aspects, I sometimes find the delightful atmosphere of the Council meetings and the Conference a trifle unreal. I want to strengthen the link between Aslib and reality, as represented by industry, and I feel it is my duty to act, not as a hostile critic, but as a signpost to the direction in which I think Aslib should go. I have said many flattering things about Aslib in the past, and shall say them again in the future, and if anything in these remarks appears in a light different from that, I hope it will be regarded as the gentle fraternal correction of one who has grown up with the body from its early beginnings. My last problem is, then, to make Aslib see its own future as a splendid and developing whole, and not merely as a minor offshoot presently to be pruned away in the stress of economic crisis.

DISCUSSION

The chair was taken by Professor R. S. Hutton. The following took part in the discussion: Mr. G. A. Shires, Mr. A. B. Agard Evans, Mr. L. G. M. Roberts, Mr. C. J. Golledge, Mr. P. Grodzinski, Mr. F. M. Wright, Mr. F. Greenaway, Dr. W. H. Brindley, Corporal J. W. Jeffrey, Mr. C. W. Hanson and Mr. R. S. Craddock.

Presenting his paper, Mr. Simons said that he had broached a number of specific problems, to which he did not know the answers, but hoped to learn something from the discussion. There was a serious omission from his paper: he had not mentioned that one reason why technical men would not go to a library was—librarians were such terrifying people!

Professor Hutton believed that Mr. Simons' extraordinarily valuable and stimulating paper should certainly lead to useful results. Perhaps its author was not quite sincere in describing himself as panic-stricken when he attended the first Aslib Conference. And perhaps one reason for the snobbery of technical men might be that it cost a director £15 to read a book! On the criticism that Aslib had concentrated too much on librarianship and had failed in its service to industrialists, Professor Hutton reminded Mr. Simon that at an earlier Conference* Aslib's function was described as two-fold: (1) to provide a service of information; and (2) to bring it to the attention of members of the organisation. But, if Mr. Simons had overstated the case, nevertheless a great deal more remained to be done.

Mr. G. A. Shires said that, as a worker in the Midlands and a Warwickshire man, he agreed with Mr. Simons, who had contributed an excellent and important paper—important, because it approached the subject in a fresh way, a human and personal way, revealing its author, an information officer in a particular set of circumstances, grappling with certain difficulties, which it was Aslib's duty to help to solve. He thought, however, that when Mr. Simons pilloried the practical man for his sceptical attitude to the literature, that was the librarian speaking rather than the information officer. A complete information service implied a careful selection of just what a particular manager needed to know, and a calculated presentation of its essentials. He would say to Mr. Simons: Give your managers something obviously useful, and they will gratefully accept it, and gradually lose their prejudices. He did not quite agree that no staff should be expected to visit the libraries, except for works not obtainable on loan. He had found research men at all events ready to do their own reading where necessary.

* Second Conference Report, 1925, page 4.

Mr. A. B. Agard Evans declared himself, like Mr. Simons, both a newcomer to the Council and a Warwickshireman, though whereas Mr. Simons had gone to the " industrial " North, he had come to the industrious South. He wished to deal with one aspect of Mr. Simons' provocative and stimulating paper : to reply to his charge that Aslib was unaware of industrial practice, and that its emphasis was on the librarianship side—academic, governmental and tutorial. There was much that he would like to say on the practical issues raised, concerning library technique, but he must leave that to others and confine himself to the charge against Aslib. In the first place, Mr. Simons was in an elementary but fundamental error, trying to draw a distinction between a special librarian and an information or intelligence officer. They were precisely the same animal, whatever the local term ; as different as a pig from a hog, or as a mongrel dog from a tyke. Roughly 99 per cent of information was recorded either in print, typescript, photographs or files. A special librarian collected, classified and indexed the literature and answered questions by means of it ; an intelligence officer, on the other hand, found the information he required by consulting the literature he had previously collected and filed. Both used outside sources freely, knowing the limitations of their own. Secondly, all this dreadful scorn for the academic or Governmental as something distinct from the practical was a puerility that had long since lost any real significance. It was on a par with a once popular belief that a working man must be a manual labourer. Surely atomic bombs and radar were practical enough ; yet they were, of necessity, the product of research by academic men. In any case, even supposing for the sake of argument that there were a distinction between practical industry and research or Governmental work, what possible bearing had it on information ? Specification details were the same whether required by the draughtsman of industry or the draughtsman in a Government office ; the properties of an alloy were the same whether required by a metallurgist in a works or a metallurgist in a Research Association laboratory ; the statistics required to answer a Parliamentary question differed no whit from the statistics required by a Director attending a Board meeting. Mr. Agard Evans thought he had said enough to confirm the conclusion already reached by so intelligent (and academic) an audience, that what the author had written on this subject was fallacious and arrant nonsense, and rather dangerous nonsense at that. He had seen enough of Mr. Simons at Council and in Committee to appreciate that he wrote thus with his tongue well in his cheek ; but there was one point on which misunderstanding should be prevented : as one present at the Committee meeting when Mr. Simons suggested that official Aslib speakers should visit the North, he could testify that far from being received in a chilly atmosphere, the suggestion was immediately welcomed, and the Committee at once discussed ways and means and occasions.

Finally, with regard to Aslib's function, Mr. Agard Evans countered the criticism that it was too intellectual and too academic ; he submitted that Aslib could only fulfil its practical function by being academic. Aslib was a Directory of Directories ; not an information centre, but a clearing house for information centres. Whether they liked it or not, special librarians were all scholarly and academic people, because the nature of their work required that they should be so if they were to be efficient. To accuse a special librarian of being academic was as ridiculous as to complain that a clergyman was religious or an engineer technical. Aslib fulfilled its practical role in a practical way by serving the needs of its working members. It could not and should not serve the industrialist directly, but only through the industrialist's information officer. The administrative industrialist did not expect to interpret chemistry or engineering directly, he employed a chemist or engineer to translate the fundamental work for particular application in the factory processes. Equally he employed a professional information officer and expected him to apply to the firm's use the special tools which Aslib provided. Mr. Agard Evans agreed that every opportunity should be taken to preach this gospel : indeed, it inspired the work of the Public Relations Committee, of which Mr. Simons was a prominent, and by no means a diffident, member. But in that direction a great deal had already been done by Aslib members in recent years, and the increased importance attached to information centres was reflected in the remarkable increase in Aslib membership already achieved.

Mr. L. G. M. Roberts expressed admiration for Mr. Simons' frankness. Few would have had the courage to put such remarks on paper ; he agreed, very largely, with their main trend. The work done by members of Aslib was of very different kinds. Mr. Simons was a publicity manager, Mr. Agard Evans a technical librarian, whereas he himself was an information officer. There were two distinct sides to Aslib ; first, the academic and librarian side, secondly the growing industrial field, which had developed considerably. The whole answer to Mr. Simons' paper was to be found in the paper itself. Mr. Roberts disagreed with the author's remark " Before Aslib can make industry aware of it, co-operate with and help it, it must shed its library and academic complex," for the background of everything must be orderly knowledge, and this could only be provided by people who had studied library and information work. The trouble was that industry had taken no notice of Aslib. It was not the case that Aslib should go North, but that industry should realise Aslib's value. As a Northerner, Mr. Roberts' experience was that the problems in the North were no different from those in the South. Special library training was essential for the organisation and means of co-ordination of abstracting, information and other work of the kind. The professional schools were advocating the use of the U.D.C., industry was against it. They were both right, and Aslib should drive that point home. The use of the U.D.C. should be advocated, but at the same time the use of arbitrary systems should be allowed.

Mr. C. J. Golledge drew attention to a happier state of affairs than that depicted by Mr. Simons' allegation of un-interestedness on the part of Industry. When he (Mr. Golledge)

was appointed to Marconi Instruments, Ltd., the Company's physicists and engineers pronounced the U.D.C. (then in draft) to be unworkable. Being of the opinion that any special library should be classified in the same manner as that of the abstracting journal serving its needs, he had written to the editor of *Science Abstracts* asking whether such bodies as the B.B.C., Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, or the P.O. Research Station had been consulted. As a result, a sub-committee was formed under the auspices of the B.S.I., and the section on Telecommunication was revised as far as international rules allowed. There was a case where the Library profession owed a debt to Industry, for considerable time was spent on meetings in London by members of the staff of the bodies mentioned. Referring back to the classification of special libraries, he could argue for and against the U.D.C. or a dictionary catalogue; but he stressed the importance of its correlation with the system adopted by the abstracting journal serving its field. This permitted of quick reference from the selected or restricted (company) library catalogue to the wider accumulation of data in the abstracting journal. Most serious workers were familiar with their own abstracting journal and found it irritating to have to use another system in their library.

Mr. P. Grodzinski said that Mr. Simons had presented his paper more in the form of a personal essay which displayed so many psychological sidelights that it made very amusing reading. But his " complaints " needed further analysis by all concerned in order to discover what was the proper action to be taken. Representing his problems as, so to speak, a characteristic of the English home front, Mr. Simons contrasted the " Southern " and the " Northern" mind. But this contrast was to be found everywhere, in any country, and last, not least, in the " Southern " country. Therefore, another notation should be adopted, even going back to biblical language, to speak of " black " and " white " sheep. No doubt Mr. Simons had seen his problem in the right perspective, but was it true *sub specie aeternitatis*? Mr. Grodzinski felt entitled to offer what he liked to call " constructive criticism," having had varied experience both as user and supplier of information. Mr. Simons had analysed clearly the position of his customers with regard to books; but in many fields there were no technical handbooks, nor even trade papers, available which could supply the required information. For various reasons those available could not represent the latest state of technique. It was the speaker's personal experience, which he could substantiate, that a book appearing on the market was at least two years behind, and a research report just published might be from six months to two years old. Compare this time-lag with the actual needs of the practical engineer, who had usually to solve an urgent problem: the same trouble might have arisen before and the solution have been described in the literature, but perhaps the working conditions of a single item might have been different. The only correct and direct approach Mr. Grodzinski could see was by trial and even actual research and investigation. Only a few days ago he had been asked, in the North, whether he could supply data on the machining of cast-iron and steel with diamond. He could have said that he had a lot of literature on the subject, to which he had even contributed something himself, but, in fact, his answer was that though he had made some preliminary tests, the whole problem was one of actual investigation. Mr. Grodzinski declared himself an ardent collector of every item of printed, written and even spoken information, but technical development in the fields in which he was working was such that he never would use information of that kind uncritically. To summarise: the aversion to technical and scientific literature he considered to some extent justified. It rarely contained intentionally wrong data, but very often data not complete enough to enable the practical man to apply the information correctly. Improvement of the technical literature should be attempted by splitting up the work between several competent authors, to enable speedier production in series of small handbooks. In this respect much help could be given by the combined experience of libraries and information officers.

Mr. F. M. Wright observed that Mr. Simons had provided an anthropological study of executives who did not understand the functions of an information service. A campaign was necessary to bring the need of a works technical information service before these people, in whatever part of the country they might be, by lectures to Rotary clubs, Chambers of Commerce, etc. Probably coal and shipbuilding industries were especially in need of such a message. An industrial firm should not rely entirely on a trade or research association.

Mr. F. Greenaway said that the discussion on Mr. Simons' paper, both before and during this meeting, had shown how great was the interest of certain members of this Association in the problems of industrial information services. A third, and perhaps more, of Aslib's members worked on factory premises, and over half were directly connected with industry. They were faced with very special problems with which Aslib had not yet attempted to cope. One such large problem was the organisation and functioning of an information service operating from a special library attached to an industrial research laboratory and being called upon to provide information for research personnel, factory technicians, technical management and consumer advice services. Mr. Greenaway instanced his own company, which followed the progressive policy of giving a member of the library staff, who had experience as a research chemist, wide facilities for meeting research, technical and management personnel at regular intervals; he was thus able to keep in touch with their needs, and to use his own research initiative in fulfilling requests and maintaining the flow of relevant new information. Many information officers would welcome the chance of discussing the technique by which the varied functions of such information services were effectively carried out. The proper forum for such discussion was best provided by Aslib and, Mr. Greenaway added, he would be expressing the obvious wish of that meeting by proposing that the Council should consider

plans for calling a conference on the special problems of industrial information services. It was a commonplace that if we were to survive as a first-class nation British industry should have an opportunity for an interchange of views which it was the duty of Aslib to provide.

Dr. W. H. Brindley believed that something could be done towards resolving many of the problems outlined by Mr. Simons by discussing them at meetings held conjointly by Aslib and some of the scientific and technical societies. Dr. Brindley offered to arrange such a meeting in Manchester.

Corporal J. W. Jeffrey thought Mr. Simons was confusing Aslib's job with his own. It was not Aslib's job to get people to read, but Aslib needed much publicity. He had experienced the same problems in connection with his work in the R.A.F., although the standard was not quite so high. His work extended to all levels. It was the information officer's job to get the worker, as well as the research man, working on a certain process to read. The information officer had a great part to play in the future of British industry. Joint production committees had proved useful; they provided an opportunity for obtaining information. Whether industry were run on a private or nationalised basis, joint production committees were ideal for getting the latest information and providing a means of putting British industry on its feet again.

Mr. C. W. Hanson, discussing the question "who does not read?", thought it was the mechanical engineer, usually a practical rather than a university trained man, who did not consult books. Chemists and physicists needed library service much more than the engineer. The branches of engineering had been developed empirically; the engineer could not learn so much from published matter as other scientists. To each member joining the staff of his company, Mr. Hanson said, he presented a small leaflet outlining the services rendered by the library. With regard to Mr. Simons' experiences of losses, Mr. Hanson did not think this difficulty was more prevalent in the North than in the South. He had devised a scheme of "permanent loans" which had diminished the number of books lost.

Mr. R. S. Craddock suggested that attendance and comments of research workers and technical personnel would provide useful material when controversial papers of this type were under discussion, with a view to hearing the other side of the story! If requested, the larger firms might favourably consider supplementing their normal representations on these occasions.

Replying to the various comments, Mr. Simons expressed some surprise that the effect of his paper was not like that of a rocket, but rather that of an atomic bomb. Since Aslib's aims had been defined so long ago, it was high time something was done to carry them into effect. Answering Mr. Shires, he thought it rather depended on a man's age whether he was prepared to read, for the minds of men ossified as they grew older. He congratulated Mr. Agard Evans on a "brilliant bit of batting on a sticky wicket", but unfortunately in the wrong match. He had not said half the things of which Mr. Agard Evans had accused him; he was not attacking special librarians, but an organisation which derived a considerable proportion of its funds from industry and, allowing itself to be seduced by the sirens of London, was neglecting the North. He hoped that others would come North and see for themselves; but nothing had been done about his suggestion to the Council to arrange meetings in the North, although he had promised to make all the necessary arrangements. Mr. Simons thanked Mr. Roberts for his valuable comments and, in reply to Mr. Golledge, said that he refused to try to learn the U.D.C. at his age. With regard to Mr. Grodzinski's remarks about books being at least two years out of date, he thought that many practical men were at least ten years out of date. He thanked Dr. Brindley for his offer of co-operation, and thought a conference on information in industry as suggested by Mr. Greenaway would be extremely useful, adding that the Aslib annual conference ought sometimes to be held in the North and not always in London or thereabouts. Replying to Corporal Jeffrey, Mr. Simons said that he did not mean that Aslib should read for people, but should persuade them to read for themselves; he thought he had in his works done a lot of spade work which might well have been done by Aslib. He approved of Mr. Hanson's idea of distributing the pamphlet to his staff about the work of the library.

The following communication has been received since the Conference from Mr. R. S. Griffiths (Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company, Ltd.):

Being greatly impressed with Mr. Simons' paper, I feel that to recount my personal experiences in the limited field of the particular industry with which I am personally connected may further both the activities of Aslib and the development of a system of Information Service for industry as a whole.

Early in 1942, the Managing Director of the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company, Ltd., instructed me to inaugurate a Library for the Head Office situated in London. No reasons were advanced for entrusting this task to me, but it is not irrelevant to indicate a few possibilities which may have influenced this appointment, seeing I was not, like Mr. Simons, either publicity manager or connected with the Company's publicity service.

I have had over fifty years' service with the Company and one of the earlier companies now incorporated in it. During this period I have passed through the various stages of studentship, drawing office, estimating office, erection engineer and sales engineer, and for a number of years I have been a lecturer upon Railway Signalling at the City and Guilds branch of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, a member of several institutions particularly connected with the Railway Industry, and a past President of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers, to which Institution I have contributed several papers. I have, therefore, a wide

knowledge of one section of the Company's activities in most of its branches and appreciate how very limited were the opportunities of acquiring knowledge from books at the time of my studentship.

The Company's Head Office, as already stated, is in London and its works at Chippenham, Wilts, so it comes within that division of the country Mr. Simons calls the south.

As to the Company's activities, they are world-wide—or, put another way, they are concerned with railways wherever these exist, either as prospective clients of or as testing grounds for developments of its associated Companies.

To start a library in such a period of stress as 1942 was somewhat hazardous, but the opportunity to undertake its provision with such immense possibilities was enthralling.

My first task was to define in my own mind what needs such a library should attempt to fulfil. I forecasted these as : (1) Anything which could further the activities of the Company's business as a whole, (2) Records of research work on anything which could influence or assist the production of the innumerable appliances the Company manufactured. (3) Knowledge of the countries in which the Company had actual or prospective clients. (4) Provision of facilities to enable (*a*) junior members of the staff called up for service with the Armed Forces to get up to date on their return to the Company, and (*b*) for students newly joining the Company to continue both general and specialised training in their chosen profession. There were three great difficulties :

1st.—The majority of the Head Office Staff had been evacuated to Chippenham in 1939.

2nd.—Such books as existed were located in departmental managers' offices, were not indexed and no one knew exactly what books did exist in these departmental bookcases.

3rd.—A Head Office Library situated in London could never be of real service to the Works Manager and his staff and workers.

This last difficulty was settled first by the inauguration of a Works Library at Chippenham directed by a committee with its own Librarian and rules and regulations, but naturally working in the closest co-operation with the Head Office Library.

The two other difficulties have not yet been solved, because the Head Office Staff has not yet returned to London with its departmental libraries. I hope that when it does return these departmental libraries will come under the control of the Head Office Librarian, even if in many instances the books remain in the departmental book cases, because in daily use. Duplicate copies can generally be provided in the main library if necessary.

As a member of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers I had some slight knowledge of the work of Aslib, and when the formation of the Library was authorised I obtained authority for the Company to become a subscriber to the Association, in the hope that its services would assist me. I still think it can, but agree with Mr. Simons that it should aim at assisting industry to a much greater extent than has yet been my experience. I think the suggestions put forward by Mr. Simons are eminently practical and sound.

Until one has attempted to bring into being a technical library, no idea of what should constitute its scope can be visualised. Let me enumerate some of my own problems. We manufacture apparatus which is operated mechanically, electrically and by compressed air. It may have to operate in the tropical heat of India, or the almost arctic conditions of Canada ; below ground in deep level coal mines or under atmospheric conditions of sea level or at the summit of the Andes. We are concerned with conditions of light, e.g. sunlight in Great Britain or in India, and of light and darkness, day and night. Our apparatus may be maintained by highly skilled workmen, as on the railways of Great Britain, or by unskilled native labour in India and the Colonies. Railways are either Government owned, or subject to Governmental requirements and inspection, and these vary with every country. Many of our contracts include supervising erection in situ, and frequently in foreign countries, so that knowledge of such countries, particularly as they affect our particular work, is of considerable value. Information upon labour conditions, climate and social conditions, seasonal traffid on railways and many other local peculiarities would prove helpful if accertainable before they start by engineers who are being sent out to supervise installation work.

Since the Designing Department is situated at the Head Office, information concerning new materials or their special treatment, British Standard Specifications and similar information must be included.

The systematic circulation of periodicals must await the return of the evacuated staff, but it promises to be somewhat of a headache for the reasons given by Mr. Simons. My experience is that hold-up's do occur with certain of the higher officials purely through their absence from the office on business, visits of which the librarian is not informed. We have always taken a number of foreign technical journals, particularly those which deal specifically with railway matters. Among our staff there are linguists who can read them, but naturally cannot spare time to translate them, and so the fullest advantage is not taken of the information these periodicals contain. The ideal would be a librarian able to read and translate, when necessary, articles appearing in them. Unfortunately, I am unable to do this, and so must rely upon articles of sufficient importance for general distribution being pointed out by such as can read them, and thus, obtaining translations ; here I shall be up against the delays Mr. Simon aptly describes. The Library, through the medium of the technical periodicals, can also provide a service of value in connection with the Patent department, although that Department would have its own more thorough and detailed channels of information upon which mainly to rely.

Where members of the Staff are members of technical Institutions we have persuaded one

member to deposit the copies of those Institutions' journals in the Library. Many of these journals enumerate additions to their own libraries, and hence opinion can be formed of the advisability of adding such volumes to our own Library.

Finally, I would have liked to include at least one copy of every publication issued by the present Company and the Companies now incorporated in it. As the earliest of these was started in 1860, many of them are not now in existence, and if they were their publications would need probably more space to house than could be provided. I have, however, a few very early issues, including a Westinghouse Brake Company publication of 1878 and a Saxby and Farmer publication of 1885.

Even these notes are, I think, enough to show what a complex organism the technical library of an industrial concern can be. I incline to the opinion which I seem to read between the lines of Mr. Simons' paper that, while indexing, recording and similar duties of the Librarian are very useful, if not essential, they are not the whole matter, and at least they can be acquired by a short course of study. What is wanted in the industrial field is a sound knowledge of the actual work of the industrial concern for which the library is to be provided, encouraging those for whose benefit it is intended to make full use of if for their own betterment as much as for the firm. Opportunity, we are always being told, is a good thing. An examination of carefully kept records would show what use is made of the opportunity an Industrial Technical Library presents, and might provide evidence whereby the gospel could be preached to those as yet unconverted to the belief that an Information Service in the form of a technical library is a worth-while service.

Reform of the System of Scientific Publications

Just before the 1945 *Conference,* MR. ERIC REID, B.Sc., *at the suggestion of Professor J. D. Bernal, submitted for a discussion a paper on a proposed reform of the publication of scientific papers which had been put forward by the Welwyn Garden City branch of the Association of Scientific Workers and the Welwyn Garden City Scientists' Club. It was too late for this to be included in the official Aslib programme, but some thirty of those attending the Conference stayed behind on the Saturday evening in order to discuss this interesting paper, of which only the following very brief summary—which naturally cannot do it justice—is available.*—Ed.

Mr. Reid linked up his remarks with the paper which had been given by Professor Bernal* at the opening session of the Conference. Stated briefly, Mr. Reid's paper set out the difficulties now experienced by the scientist who finds material necessary for his work scattered in a number of periodicals containing also a good many papers which are not of direct interest to him. Even if he greatly increases his subscriptions to scientific periodicals he cannot be sure that he will see all the papers that are of importance. Abstracts help to cover the field, but there is a considerable time-lag between the publication of a paper and the appearance of the abstract, and not even the abstracting services can be relied upon to bring every important contribution to his notice.

Mr. Reid's suggested solution to this problem was to make the individual paper the basic unit of publication. This, as now, would be submitted to a society. If it were accepted the paper would be forwarded to a publishing centre, which would issue it in a standard form together with an abstract. The subscriber to a society could receive either the abstracts, from which he could order those papers which appear to be of interest, or all the papers covering certain fields of interest previously selected by him. The scheme, if first established on a national basis, could be extended internationally later.

DISCUSSION

The discussion which followed was lively and showed a keen appreciation of the practical difficulties of any such drastic reform as had been suggested, though there was complete agreement that the present system had grave defects which would multiply with post-war increase in scientific publications. Finally, it was agreed that the Councils of Aslib and of the Association of Scientific Workers should be asked to authorise the setting up of a joint committee to examine the proposals put forward by Mr. Reid and incorporate modifications which had been suggested during the discussion, with a view to the preparation of a statement to be submitted for publication in *Nature* or some similar journal. By this means it was hoped to secure the interest of those who would be affected by such changes in scientific publication and, eventually, to take steps to put into practice some measure of reform.

* See pages 20–24.

The Planning and Equipment of Research Libraries and Information Bureaux

By EDWARD J. CARTER, A.R.I.B.A.

This paper has been somewhat extended since its delivery. Some of the additions, made in response to contributions in the discussion, are marked by an asterisk; they have been included without direct reference to the speakers who raised these points, but the author is grateful to them for providing the incentive.

Much has been written about the planning of National and Public Libraries, but hitherto the planning of research libraries has been neglected because presumably they have generally been neglected in their establishments. In England there have not been many institutions which have even pretended to provide architecturally for library accommodation with the same care, for instance, that the laboratory provision of a scientific institution has generally received.

I cannot claim to have personal experience of more than one type of library, and that in a professional institution that has to cater for a very wide range of readers from students to advanced researchers. My own Institution's library service has developed so vastly in the past ten years that even our comparatively new and purpose-built premises are now in many respects in need of alteration to meet new demands and to correct faults which slipped in unsuspected. I shall not particularise over much from the R.I.B.A., but I hope none the less that my particular experience will give, now and then, added emphasis to my generalisations.

* A first duty of anyone who talks about buildings is to clear up some misunderstanding about the architect's place and function. The architect is, or should be, the user's servant, competent to " take a brief " from his client; in this case the librarian, the library user and the council or board of the employing body, and to translate it into efficient and beautiful building. This capacity to " take a brief " is not the least of the architect's abilities nor is it a passive function, the process of brief taking includes the very positive ability to interpret, analyse and direct. Fundamentally this is the ability to understand a client's needs; but there must be the " brief." The architect is not a genius competent to interpret unexpressed needs and wants though he is often expected to be able to do this. The needs must be expressed. It is no use expecting an architect to come to a highly specialised job such as designing a research library knowing more about the client's needs than he does himself. The client, for his part, must not pretend that he knows how these needs can be met in architectural and building terms. This is a situation demanding at least tact and a capacity on both sides to handle the constant interplay of knowledge of needs and solutions and a capacity for intelligent compromise. This extends over the whole range of aesthetic and function: the client's needs are not confined to function or the architect's contribution to the aesthetic. I am often led to advise against too implicit reliance on experience. Experience in one field may be enough to characterise an architect as a specialist but it may all be bad experience and imply inflexibility. This is not, of course, to say that a specialist may not be by far the best man for a job but in each new job his ability to take a brief will be tested, particularly where the client himself is a stimulating and uncomplaisant customer, determined to analyse and present his own needs with enthusiasm and vigour.

PLAN FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM TO EXPAND

I put flexibility first. It is the rarest virtue. The librarian in old premises is compelled to make-do with fixed room sizes, window and door openings and fixed relationships of apartments; the librarian of a new building, who has some say in its lay-out, is too easily tempted to design his buildings closely round his scheme of things without regard for later and unforeseen changes.

Theoretically one starts from ideal functional flexibility, such as has been achieved in many office and science buildings, notably in the fine new Bell Telephone Company's Murray Hill laboratories and offices which have been well illustrated and described.[1] Actually we must never forget that the functional demands of a library include a consciously organised aesthetic. A library must provide a delectable environment; a reading room must be more than a four-square apartment with shelves, tables and chairs, but there is no reason why this something more should not be achieved without resort to formalisms old or new, such as, for example, controlled the design of the National Archives Building in Washington. I think that now a very special and carefully thought out case would be needed to justify use of the one-time functional but now formalistic and academic plan of reading-bays. Generally where they are found it is because an effete academicism prevailed or because the designers were drawn to a scheme which admittedly is economical of space. No plan is less flexible than one with fixed reading bays.

Where extensive open access stacks exist—seldom required in the small and medium sized research library—very complete plan flexibility can be achieved by the use of modern forms of steel skeleton stack structure with movable intermediate pillars and the use of standardised interchangeable shelving, reading desks, carrells, etc., etc.

To achieve flexibility the least possible amount of equipment should be fixed. As an example, in the R.I.B.A. library in 1935 we provided generously for vertical files, actually increasing our provision by about 1,200 per cent, but in ten years, not only have we nearly over-run our quantitative estimate, we have found that our original and, as we thought, finely architectural scheme[2] of grouping the files together as built-in furniture is less efficient than a scheme which we now propose to adopt of having them distributed according to classes. My recommendation is: fix nothing that can be made to serve its immediate purpose efficiently as a mobile unit. Increase in size will inevitably compel changes in the qualitative elements of a library's organization. This applies not only to items of equipment but to the main plan elements, doorways and walls. Changes must be allowed for, even if they cannot be calculated in detail.

Plan allowance for increase in size must include for straightforward increase in holdings and, quite as important and more often neglected, for increase or intensification of service. This can, of course, take place without any net increase in holdings. The plan and equipment implications of increase or intensification of service are likely to be complex, and if the plan is not flexible enough to allow changes to be made the law of diminishing returns will operate fiercely.

Increase in service almost always means more staff for whom work-space must be found. In my own library in its war-time premises, if we had been able to build up staff to keep pace with the intensification of service, which we were unable to do for financial and other reasons, we could only have found work-space at the expense of reader-space, and thus by attempting improvement in one respect would have injured the library's service in another.

It is impossible in a paper of this length to deal in detail with library planning. I have suggested that the common "university" type with readers' bays is not the best—one reason for this type of plan is that it enables a reader to work in a bay with the books of his subject on the shelves round him. The chief objections are that as a subject expands it will certainly extend beyond one bay; if it is popular the one or two readers in the bay will be disturbed by other readers coming for their books. A reader bay plan is likely to be efficient only in libraries with few readers and very slow growth in accessions.

I am dealing now with comparatively small and mainly open access research libraries. For these it seems to me that a near ideal plan form is one illustrated in Wheeler & Githens,[3] and which has been excellently carried out in the superb art library at Cranbrook, Michigan, by the architect Saarinen.[4]

In many of the libraries and information bureaux serving and served by Aslib members open-access for readers or any considerable reading-space is not wanted. Books and periodicals are sent on demand to the offices and laboratories, and the library is the working laboratory of the librarians only. No librarian should, on that account, let it be believed that any old room will do ; the same detailed thought must be given not only to functional elements but also to all the problems of amenity which add so greatly to comfort, speed and efficiency of work.

There is one detail of plan arrangement which I think worth emphasis. Too often the librarian's room is placed apart from the main circulation. The librarian's room, even at the risk of some disturbance, should be in a place where he will be closely and directly in contact with the readers and with his staff. Let him have an additional and separate research room of his own for occasional use rather than force him into a position aloof from the common affairs of enquiry or routine.

LIGHTING

Daylighting has no particularly difficult problems other than the general problems of orientation and window design which have been the subject of much valuable research by the Building Research Station, but care should be taken to ensure that direct sunlight falls as little as possible on book shelves. One or two hours of hot sunlight can do immense damage to bindings, and if allowed to fall on open pages will seriously damage paper. All rooms facing the sun should be provided with sun blinds, which, it must be remembered, should not cut out ventilation. I know one library where the casements open inwards so that on hot days a choice has to be made whether windows are to be open or blinds drawn. The general opinion is in favour of open windows and there is no protection against the damaging effect of direct sun rays.

Artificial lighting should give a general illumination sufficient to allow all book titles to be read easily on shelves, good enough table-top lighting for short period reading without local lighting, and provision for high intensity local lighting for people who have settled down to a job. English standards have hitherto been low but the following foot-candle values should be maintained :

on vertical faces of shelves	5
on table tops, normal	10
on table-tops with local lighting	15 +

It is most important to avoid glare. Normally, indirect lighting is preferable to direct for general illumination. No light fitting whatever should have the light source directly in a reader's line of sight. It is equally important to avoid any direct reflections up from a page. The shiny art paper of many illustrated books and periodicals can be almost unreadable if it reflects light sources. There have been many useful studies of local lighting equipment to which those interested can go for details.[5]

Probably fluorescent lighting will come into favour for general illumination, but at present it is as well to be aware of three troubles. The colour of fluorescent lighting is somewhat less pleasant than that of filament lamps. Second, all fluorescent fittings have a flicker which can be extremely troublesome. It is possible to counteract this by assuring that any point receiving light gets it from at least two fittings run off circuits on opposing phases, so that the flicker is cancelled out. Thirdly, fluorescent lamps after a while develop a hum. I believe this can be avoided in first class work. The hum is the kind of disturbance which passes unnoticed until a certain point in fatigue makes a reader aware of it suddenly and inescapably. A librarian visiting a place with fluorescent lighting to see how it works must not be content with purely quantitative estimates and must remember that the hum may be there but inaudible to him at the time of his visit. We are hoping to refit the R.I.B.A. library with

fluorescent lighting, and it will be interesting to see how successful it is.† Fluorescent lighting is now being made the subject of studies in Britain and the U.S.A. The Industrial Health Research Board is surveying factory experience, including physiological effects and fatigue, and a paper has been published in the Proceedings of the Illuminating Engineering Society of America.

Indirect lighting which relies on reflection from walls and ceilings deteriorates rapidly owing to dirt on the reflecting surfaces. In London the loss at the end of one year can be as much as 40 per cent.

At present microfilm readers need dimmed general lighting. Either a special room must be provided or a part of the main reading room must be under-lit according to normal standards, or screens or blinds provided to reduce light in any part of the room.

ACOUSTICS

This is another neglected problem. It is just as important to prevent noisy conditions in rooms where staff work on tasks demanding concentration as in reading rooms. An interesting fact to remember is that a sustained background noise of traffic or machinery is generally not troublesome and can even be helpful in muffling foreground disturbances such as conversation, the sniffing of a reader with a cold, a squeaky pen and so on. But for a background noise to stay in the background the library room must, in a visual and in an aesthetic sense, give a feeling of detachment from the external action and noise.

Our war-time R.I.B.A. library looks over Portland Place from the first floor and might be considered badly placed for quiet and detachment, but many of the most serious readers have said that the view as well as the sounds of the activity outside actually increase the sense of peace and detachment within. In planning, the greatest care must be taken to separate noise-making jobs from those requiring quiet. Increasingly people like to use typewriters for direct transcription and library notes; also for certain types of work it is convenient to be able to dictate. Dictation and typing both are too disturbing to be allowed in a general reading room, but an advanced research library should provide study rooms where typing and dictation can be done.

HEATING AND VENTILATION

I can only make a few comparatively few and personal and somewhat unexpert comments which may however be helpful to a librarian in briefing his architect. Heating and ventilation more than any other matter of technical equipment concerns the reader's comfort. Fatigue comes on quickly in a stuffy atmosphere induced by incorrect humidity or insufficient air changes. Incorrect humidity in England is more likely to result from faulty design of heating and ventilating equipment than from the free play of the vagaries of the English climate, which mostly maintains a relative humidity amenable to books and humans. Personally I would always recommend reliance on natural ventilation with opening windows and correctly placed heating units to warm incoming air, if abnormally adverse conditions of dirt in the air do not exist. In big cities and industrial centres it is likely to be necessary, or at least desirable, to clean the air on entry, though in many parts of London the air is not so dirty as to make this essential.

A library is in use by the books all round the clock and damage can be caused by having artificially created near-ideal conditions by day and while an air conditioning plant is operating and no less artificially created bad conditions at night when heating and ventilating plant is turned off and a bad balance of conditions allowed to develop. This comment is relevant more to archives stores with delicate materials in the collection than to an ordinary " working " research library. An archivist and myself contributed papers in 1938–9 to the British Records Association on the planning and equipment of archives stores

† Since this was first written I have been able to see the new fluorescent lighting installation in the library of the Royal Society where the aesthetic effect, distribution and intensity all seem excellent.

which touched on these matters.[6] Considerable work has been done by building scientists recently on problems of wall construction as a controlling factor in heat conservation and as a structural preventative of condensation. Attention should be paid to these studies by architects, but this is not the place for detailed biographical references. There is one good general book on heating and ventilation suitable for users by W. Douglas Seymour.[7]

READING ROOMS, TABLES AND CHAIRS

The minimum reading room space allowance should be 25 square feet per reader; a good normal allowance is 30 square feet. Several books and articles deal with table design, and I won't go into it in detail, but here are a few observations. Readers prefer to sit facing rather than alongside each other, unless the space between adjacent readers is very generous.

The minimum allowance should be 30 inches per reader, tables for readers on one side only should be 3 feet across and tables with readers both sides between 4 feet 6 inches and 6 feet, depending on the type of material studied and whether or not a dividing partition, shelves, lamps and other gear are provided down the centre.

If day-light comes from one side only, single-sided tables only should be used, with, of course, readers seated to get the light from the left.

In a research library it is useful to provide shelves for reserved books and, where confidential studies are being made, lock-up cupboards as part of the structure of each table. A possibly better alternative which I have not seen applied anywhere is to provide special readers with reserve trolleys, each containing a small cupboard for papers. This would avoid the necessity of reserving a table continuously for an occasional reader, but it would necessitate a considerable trolley garage or parking space alongside each reading room table.

The best table-top is "battleship" linoleum, which can be obtained in several good colours.

Chairs must be comfortable. Something more than minimum seating comfort is one of the amenities which any but the poorest research body should afford. Nothing short of a free fight breaks up a chair so quickly as tipping back—a common offence of contemplative readers, who can be partially thwarted by having chairs without front rails.

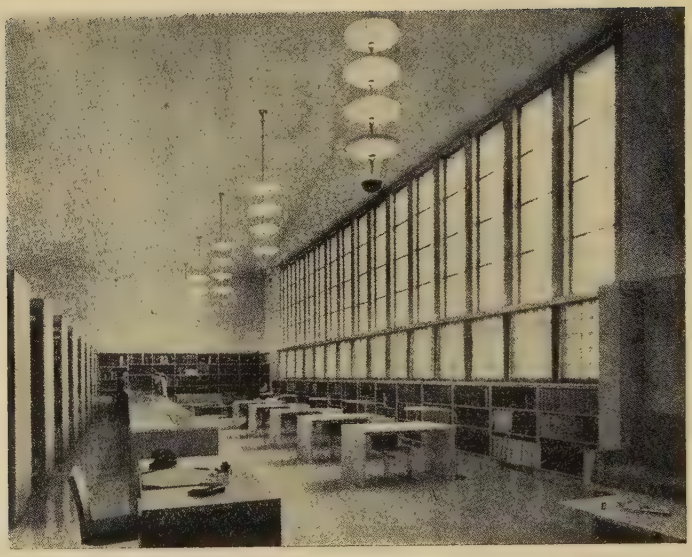
* In scientific research and industrial establishments the users of a library must often have papers on their benches liable to destruction or serious damage by chemicals or injury by apparatus. This is a constant source of trouble. The only entirely satisfactory solution is to serve photo-prints to workers in these circumstances; possibly all photoprints would have to be returned to the library to avoid breach of copyright.

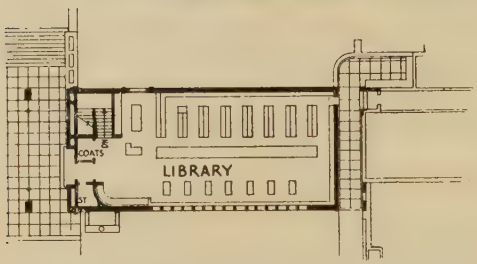
* Mr. Pierce has pleaded in his paper for smoking to be allowed in research libraries and I agree; it has been allowed in the R.I.B.A. for more than ten years and I know of no damage to books or furniture, and I can remember only a few instances of serious annoyance from smelly pipes. Large cigars excite both class consciousness and nausea and should be discouraged.

SHELVING

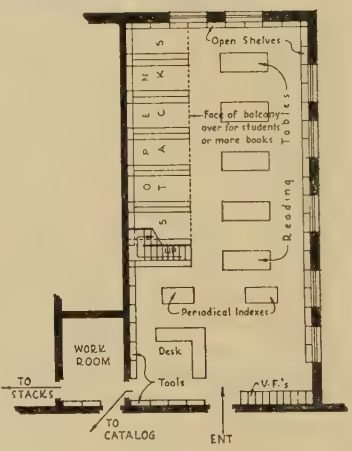
The fundamental commonplace is that all shelving must be adjustable. Many forms are produced commercially, and any librarian can choose his own without much chance of going wrong. If wood shelving is used or any type of metal shelf which uses "tonks" fittings, a useful hint is to have the little brackets which are hooked into slots in the verticals joined in pairs so that fixing for one side can be placed by a single handed action.

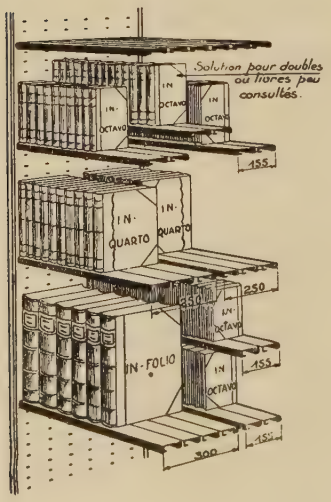
Where back-to-back shelving is used, omission of any dividing panel between the faces will enable large folios or solanders and other boxes to be shelved running through into the backing range. We have done this successfully at the R.I.B.A. by omitting the dividing panel in the lower part of each range. This allows standard vertical filing cabinets to be inserted in the book shelves





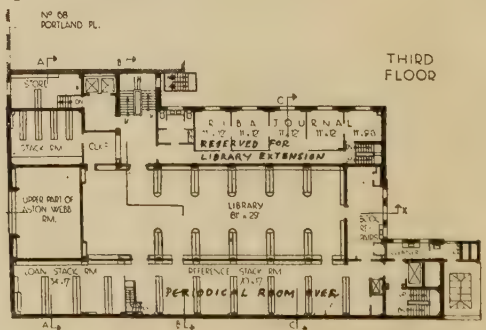
At top. The Library, Cranbrook Institute of Art, Michigan, by Eliel Saarinen. One of the best small research libraries yet built. Such superbly developed form need not be the exclusive perquisite of art libraries. The plan (*directly above*) is very simple and is similar to the model plan (*on right*) from Wheeler and Githens.





On left. The adjustable shelving in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

Below. Plan of the R.I.B.A. Library. The part marked "Reference Stack" was planned to be a stack serving the main room but has been used for open access reference material.



to make possible a direct conjunction of shelved and filed material. In the Bibliothèque Nationale ingenious and highly adjustable metal shelving is used in which the actual shelf units are made up of 15.5 cm. wide units, as many as necessary being used to compose a single shelf, which can be the minimum 15.5 cms. wide or as wide as the full depth of a double range, rather more than 500 cms.[8] The only objection to this would seem to be that many small units must take longer to fix than the normal single shelf.

* Librarians are apt to scan jealously the wide open spaces above the 8ft. level to which shelves normally rise, hoping to fill the upper reaches with galleries. There is no objection to the use of galleries if they are made easily accessible by book trolley.

I am often asked whether the fire risks of metal shelves are less than those of wood. Probably there is nothing much to choose between metal and wood in this respect. In any fierce fire metal shelves will collapse before the books have got seriously alight and will throw them in loose piles on the floor where they will burn more easily than in rows on shelves. A 1 inch hard-wood shelf will soon become charred and partially fire-proof. Books do not burn easily. There are no efficient fire extinguishers for library use except certain types of gas projectors, which are liable to save the books but gas the fire-fighters. The only answer to all this is to guard efficiently against any fire starting which will endanger the library.

I think we all foresee considerable developments in various forms of photographic services. Apart from the special needs for dark rooms, etc., in those libraries that make or hope to make their own films there is the room needed for film storage and reading. At the recent A.M.S. conference microfilm equipment was discussed and I need not go into it here, except to state my own experience that for filing films any library with a comparatively small holding —up to say 500 reels of short or long lengths—will be adequately equipped with simple trays of plywood with nails driven through in rows on which the reels can be dropped. Films in boxes can have the boxes pierced to fit over the nails. The trays can be housed in any convenient cupboard or cabinet, and a simple numerical notation can give a fool-proof location indication.

Research libraries, particularly, are troubled with the vast mass of cuttings, offprints and pamphlets which cannot stand on their own on shelves. I can only recount my own practice for what it is worth. Pamphlets of permanent value and frequent use are bound either fully or placed in board and quarter linen specially made binders, being stapled into the binder through the fold. Less frequently used pamphlets and most very flimsy material is filed vertically in Roneo cabinets, fitted with the new excellent Roneo cross-bars and suspended envelopes. I know nothing better; it is neat, very quick for reference, and sturdy. For certain groups of serial pamphlets which we wish to keep on the shelves we use the kind of office file known as an " arch file," which holds the pamphlet on two arched metal rods. We have used this also for ephemeral cuttings, which are roughly pasted to foolscap sheets of paper. We also use open-fronted boxes for certain serials such as B.S. Abstracts and British Standard Specifications. In fact, like most libraries we have experimented without absolute conviction that we have found an ideal method.

It is worth recording that, in many libraries, particularly archives libraries, vertical filing is considered unsatisfactory because unless the file is tightly packed papers tend to sag and crumple.[9] The only alternative, short of binding, is to house all papers flat in boxes.

For periodicals which are not worth binding we have experimented with an adaptation of a neat binder which I found used in one of the Harvard libraries. A stout manilla casing is fitted with metal strips or cords, which are threaded through holes punched in the separate issues. The chief objection is that if each issue is put on the file at the time of receipt all previous receipts have to be removed to get the new issue in its place at the bottom to assure continuity of paging.

Every librarian is faced some time or other with the job of calculating accommodation needs. The easiest calculation he will have to make is of shelving requirements. There are many rule of thumb methods, the most ingenious being R. W. Henderson's " Cubook " system,[10] suitable chiefly for large libraries, but I would advise every librarian to make his own basic estimates of

(*a*) the average number of books he can accommodate solid in a complete 3 foot shelf unit; calculating separately for each of the major classes of material which will be accommodated in entirely separate sections of the library. More precise calculations are unnecessary; the shelving unit of 3 foot ranges is the smallest equipment unit he need deal with, and more precise calculations will possibly encourage adherence to a too drastically tailor-made lay-out restricting flexibility.

Wheeler & Githens give a useful table of space requirements for various classifications of books when shelves are filled solid. The following are some of the classes most interesting to an Aslib audience:

	Volumes per foot of shelf	Volumes per lineal foot of single faced range	Recommended width of shelves
Economics	8	56	8ins.
General Literature ..	7	49	8ins.
History	7	49	8ins.
Technical and Scientific	6	42	8–10–12ins.
Medical	5	35	8–10ins.
Bound Periodicals ..	5	35	10–12ins.

(*b*) An allowance, as a deduction from (*a*) on account of future growth, not forgetting Fremont Rider's calculation that a normal large research library doubles its size every sixteen years.

(*c*) A further deduction from (*a*) on account of abnormal use of shelf space, e.g. for unbound periodicals shelved flat.

All this will give him a figure of x books in the existing collection per 3 foot range required.

I have often been asked if a figure can be given for book stack accommodation reckoned overall, including gangways. I have calculated this for several big stacks and find that about fifteen books per square foot is normal. This figure can only apply to really large stacks, small stacks will have a higher proportion of space as gangways, etc., and the figure would be somewhat lower.

Another possibly useful figure for librarians about to move into old buildings is that 1,000 books of mixed sizes—a general public library assortment—weigh 18 cwt. and 1,000 octavos weigh 10 cwt.

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Some Notes on the Planning of Research Libraries

By S. ROWLAND PIERCE, F.R.I.B.A.

Plans for Research Libraries depend on two major factors: the type of organization to be served and the administrative method adopted by those responsible for the library. No definite single method for either planning or equipment can be laid down as applicable for all cases. It is thus evident that the planner must be cognisant of the full requirements of the individual problem at the earliest possible moment.

Research libraries vary, broadly, between those required for institutional work—mostly specialist and often centralised and national in character—and those required for business or industrial purposes. The former may be organised to work with branches in various parts of the country and the ground covered within any specialist field should be co-ordinated on both national and regional bases. The latter type of library (for commerce and industry) varies in type very widely, but again will find itself very much more efficient if linked to regional and even national resources of reference and research. Again, broadly, it often happens that the University library acts as the regional unit for smaller institutions or for industrial organizations.

The professions, also, often organize their own reference libraries; but here agains wide divergences of method are apparent with the different professions.

A few simple requirements will make clear the difficulties of any standardisation of planning. The R.I.B.A. has its central (national) Architectural Library for reference and research. The regional Architectural Societies have their own smaller libraries in the larger centres, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh and so on. The individual practitioner, if his office is of any size, should and usually does, have a small library which serves his office and staff requirements. The usefulness of the smaller units of this ladder can be greatly enhanced if their contents are co-related with the larger units. Much has already been attempted on these lines, but too few people, societies and schools realise or take advantage of the facilities already existing; a fact which leads to much needless duplication and considerable waste of space in libraries of all sorts.

Private practitioner's libraries vary much with the respective professions; for example, an architect or engineer generally concentrates all his books and reference files in one room or place, so that all members of his staff can use them equally. A solicitor, on the other hand, departmentalises his library; the books on special subjects are found in various rooms, usually those of his partners or chief clerks, who, individually, concentrate exclusively on particular sides of any extensive practice.

In the wider and more populous fields of industry the organization of libraries for research and reference is an equally vital element in the progress of experimental work; in general, if the work is extensive, concentration of all books and references in one place, under a competent and trained librarian is essential and would appear the only economical method of establishment.

In commerce the library is of less apparent importance, but it is still an

element in design and planning that can assume great priority. The instance that springs to mind with particular force is, perhaps, more administrative than commercial, namely that of the Municipal office organization of our towns and cities. Very few town halls have provided adequate library facilities. Books are usually scattered throughout the building in the bookcases of various " heads " rooms. Naturally, each chief departmental officer likes to have his own few books at hand, but the great loss of efficiency in this unco-ordinated method is apparent, even on a cursory examination of the problem ; different departments know too little of each other's work and place in the total organization and when it is required to produce a piece of work involving the efforts of a number of departments (the topical outstanding example of this is in town planning and reconstruction generally) the assembling of necessary data for conducting the required research is almost impossible for the official or consultant in charge of the work. I think that any concentrated library for a public office should be available equally to staff, directors, officials, and members of committees and councils by whom and under whom, the work is carried out.

I have said enough above to show that planning of libraries for research work is dependent firstly, on a knowledge of the purpose of each library, and secondly on the extension of the idea that research and reference to past records is essential in all work that is to be a contribution to and an extension of knowledge. An increase in the demand for such libraries, and for their better organization, will bring in its train an undoubted demand for better planning of libraries, and, may, in fact, alter and contribute much to the advancement of technique in planning and of the design of equipment.

I have concentrated rather on the smaller and more intimate kinds of research libraries, because I feel that it is this side which is most neglected and which requires so much more development than it has, so far, received.

Mr. Carter has kindly let me have a draft copy of his paper for the Aslib Conference and I have read it with great interest and with a whole-hearted approval of almost everything he has to say for the better planning and design of libraries. On one or two points, however, I would like to make comments and even add a word of warning.

Lighting : Windows facing the sun (specially between S.E. and W.) are to be avoided ; if any should be necessary, place them low down in the walls, so that direct sunlight falls on the floor rather than on tables or book-cases ; the worst case that should be allowable are south windows on a short wall at the end of a long room. Fully indirect artificial lighting is not to be recommended ; it is wasteful and is dull to work in. Probably the best compromise, whatever type of lamp is used, is to provide *direct* local lighting and *indirect* general overall lighting.

Acoustics are most important but it is well to remember that the effects of sound can always be controlled and unpleasantness avoided by good planning (which includes the sectional shape) and initial care in the selection of materials.

Table-tops : The best table-top is probably not linoleum ; it has a linseed or other oil basis and becomes brittle or sticky according to cleaning treatment. A similar material with a cellulose basis (*e.g.* " Cellulin ") is probably better.

Chairs should be moveable in a silent manner ; this can be done by using good quality casters (and this quite stops the tilting of chairs !) or, where some types of softer floor finishes are used, by the use of " domes of silence."

Book-shelves : Where doors are not used, I think there should be no books below 1 foot or even 1 foot 6 inches of the floor ; it is there that most dirt and dust arises from floor cleaning. If this bottom space can be used for general storage, or for books not frequently required, the space can be closed by a lifting cover, which when raised to a horizontal position can be partially slid into the thickness of the shelving in such a manner as to provide a " shelf " for resting books, etc., upon during transit from shelves to tables.

Maps and similar large sheets require special cases with drawers not greater than 2 inches effective depth ; the top drawer should not be higher than 4 feet

from the floor. Drop handles of metal should be avoided on all library fittings —they are noisy. Wooden or metal flush pulls, within the thickness of drawer or door fronts, and perhaps continuous for the full width of drawer or length of door, are almost ideal.

Smoking in Libraries : In a research library this would seem an almost inevitable institution. If it is allowed, proper provision for ash-trays should be made ; they should not be loose and in the way of free and complete use of the table-tops, and are best sunk in, or fixed to the ends of the tables, where they could swivel away out of sight if not required. Nothing is more irritating (unless it be the prohibition of smoking !) than a ash-tray that scatters its contents when a corner of a book falls upon it.

DISCUSSION

The chair was taken by Mr. S. W. Gibson. The following took part in the discussion : Mr. E. D. Jones, Mr. A. E. Cummins, Mr. B. M. Headicar, Mr. D. V. Arnold, Mr. R. H. Lock, Mr. W. L. Cooper, Mr. P. Grodzinski and Mr. M. H. Waterfall.

Opening the discussion, the Chairman said that junior librarians might note with satisfaction that the subject of Research Libraries had become sufficiently important to receive the attention of architects. He had read the papers, already circulated, with interest and close attention to detail, and he wondered why Mr. Carter had not dealt with ventilation and heating : true, ventilation had been mentioned incidentally with regard to sunblinds, but heating not at all. Air conditioning was important in taking care of papers and books. Endorsing Mr. Carter's view that Flexibility was of the first importance, Mr. Gibson said he knew of one department which had moved into new premises three times during the last thirty years. The furniture, including book shelves, being of " unit " construction, the removals had presented no great difficulties in transport or fixing, but, of course, details had to be carefully organised, on the same general lines as a household removal, with, for instance, the carpets placed last in the van, being thus the first things to come out. That department was sizeable, the staff being normally twenty and the floor space about 8,000 square feet.

Mr. Carter agreed that he was anxious to stress the idea of planned flexibility. If you could adjust easily you could also keep pace with the demands made on a library. There had always been a tendency to have fixed furnishing in libraries, because then from the start it appeared far more tidy. Both architects and librarians were apt to favour fixtures, and often these were unavoidable, since a library was so often considered as subsidiary to other sections. An architect, like a barrister, was trained to take a brief. His tasks were apt to range over an embarrassingly wide field. Mr. Rowland Pierce, whose paper was also before the Conference, was at one end of the scale in charge of the planning of the whole of the City of Norwich ; at the other end he was converting new premises which had been acquired by the National Book League. His success could not depend more on his own concentrated study of the subject than could that of a barrister. The needs of the library had, in the first place, to be analysed and stated by the librarian. Mr. Carter felt that the Chairman had, in a sense, stressed a wrong point. It was not so much that architects were now taking an interest in libraries, as that the heads of firms, etc., realising the importance of libraries, were now bringing in the architects. Industrial research libraries had been neglected ; for this librarians and industry were alike to blame. In the Soviet Union and in other countries more attention was paid to the housing of libraries, as they were far ahead of us in realising the importance of libraries. A research library must be more than a hole in a wall to take books. The Chairman had called attention to the omission from the paper of any reference to heating and ventilation, and it was probable that at least a dozen other aspects had been omitted. One reason for not emphasising this aspect was that the problem was not so acute in this country as in many others. The humidity of our country was such that it was suitable for both human beings and for books, and we were not subject to violent changes in humidity and temperature. Mr. Carter added that in Mr. Pierce's absence he would do his best to answer any questions for Mr. Pierce which the audience might wish to put.

Mr. E. D. Jones cordially appreciated Mr. Carter's statement that comfort was an amenity which companies could well afford. Commenting on certain remarks made by Mr. Carter about fluorescent lighting, Mr. Jones said that fluorescent lamps were now available in a " warm white " colour, designed for internal domestic and office use, which mitigated the somewhat cool effect of the daylight lamps. His own experience was that most people ultimately preferred this form of lighting, even if their initial reception was not enthusiastic owing to its " difference " from the familiar tungsten filament lighting. With regard to hum and flicker, hum was caused either by faulty control gear or by its incorrect mounting, and not by the lamps themselves ; the latest reputable forms of control gear designed for domestic and office use would be inaudible. Stroboscopic flicker he had never found troublesome, although it could always be noticed if one set out deliberately to do so. Expert advice on the positioning of fluorescent lighting could do much to reduce any inconvenience.

Mr. A. E. Cummins said that Mr. Carter's paper, written by one who was both an architect and a librarian, opened a fascinating prospect, particularly to one who had to administer one of London's busiest Scientific Libraries in what must surely be London's most inadequate

premises. Stock was spread over four floors—there was no lift—and soon would have extended to eight rooms and two lofts. The rooms included the Council Room, Officers' Room and General Secretary's office, where legitimate work was interrupted by Library Staff fetching books. Wall stacks were up to 14ft. in height. The Reading Room was lighted by four windows high on the south wall. Heating was supplied by two antiquated radiators serviced by a decrepit furnace four floors below, and two coal fires. The Reading Room was so small that only nine readers could be seated in comfort, at three small tables under windows and one long central table placed parallel to windows. Enormous pressure on space necessitated drastic alterations, and removal of island cases and placing all tables at right angles to windows increased the seating accommodation to fourteen. He noted Mr. Carter's disapproval of reading bays, but were not these popular with readers because of the greater sense of privacy afforded? As to the use of books in laboratories, books from other libraries should not be put on chemical laboratory benches, because risk of damage was considerable.

What Mr. Carter had said about the accessibility of the Librarian was most important. The Special Library could not fulfil its true functions unless there was the closest contact between Librarian and readers—he should be in a position to fulfil, even to anticipate, their needs, which he could not do if shut up in an office away from the Reading Room. Mr. Cummins said that he had talked to several people about fluorescent lighting, which is likely to be installed in the Chemical Society Library. One reader told him that for the first few minutes after switching on he found it very trying to the eyes, and that in factories where it had been installed, eye troubles had greatly increased. Regarding the traffic noise from Portland Place, surely this could not be so great as that in Piccadilly, but his readers did not find this distracting, though studying did become somewhat difficult when someone came along Piccadilly playing on a clarinet "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas." As to film storage, did not Mr. Carter think that storing films on nails risked scratching? Mr. Cummins said his practice was to insert a short wooden core in each film, pinning to the top of each core a circular cardboard disc, which covered the top of the film, and bore particulars of it. The estimate for weights quoted by Mr. Carter for Public Libraries was not adequate for Special Libraries with large periodical holdings; these figures should at least be doubled. Mr. Cummins noticed that Mr. Pierce was quite keen on smoking facilities. So were many readers. But what was the risk of damage to books, and how would it affect insurance policies?

Mr. B. M. Headicar thought the papers presented admirable. When a library was to be planned it was essential that the comfort of the *users* should be considered. There did not seem to be any special library architects, although we had specialists for schools, etc. The American practice of using regular sized units, with which rooms could be made small or larger at will, might well be adopted. The question of ventilation was always difficult, particularly if you had to deal with mixed nationalities. In his library people had been opening and shutting windows continuously. The librarian should pay more attention to ventilation and its regulation, by opening windows during the warmer part of the day. In his experience tables of a uniform size were most valuable, a convenient size being 4 ft. square: these could be easily moved and used to extend the accommodation. The legs on tables should not be at the corners, but about 9 inches in, so that someone could sit at the join when two were put together. With regard to lighting, Mr. Headicar felt very strongly that there should be individual lighting. It was obviously uneconomic to light from the ceiling.

Mr. D. V. Arnold considered Mr. Carter's paper an extremely interesting survey of a real library problem. Regarding galleries in libraries, did not the building of a gallery defeat the idea of flexibility? and in many cases such galleries were disturbing, being apt to echo as people walked on them. He thought that it might be better to use moveable steps.

Mr. R. H. Lock believed that scientists liked to have books with them in a laboratory, so that they could continue to watch their experiments and also to read and write. He would like Mr. Carter's suggestions for some structure which could be used to accomplish this.

Mr. W. L. Cooper thought that a whole conference might be devoted to library planning.

Mr. P. Grodzinski had just two points to make: (1) Could Mr. Carter's paper be illustrated, as this would make the subject much clearer? (2) Would not an agreed uniform size of books make the task of librarians and library designers considerably easier?

Mr. W. H. Waterfall was appalled that no one except the Chairman had mentioned air conditioning. Surely the concept of ventilation had dropped out of use ten years ago. If air conditioning were to be used, experts should be called in early in planning a building.

Dealing with points raised, Mr. Carter said, with regard to air conditioning, that it must be remembered the books had to remain in the same place all the time, and that the practice of turning off the air conditioning plant when the room was not in use by human beings was detrimental to the books. He had dealt with air conditioning* in an earlier article. With regard to fluorescent lighting, this was at the moment being installed at the Royal Society, and he was watching the experiment with interest, as it was being considered also for his own library. He entirely endorsed Mr. Headicar's preference for the American unit room. This method had been fully recognised in connection with laboratory design, but not yet in connection with libraries. Mr. Carter warned his audience to beware of the specialist architect. Librarians should have faith in their own ideas and should then brief a good architect.

The meeting decided to recommend the Programme Committee of Aslib to explore the possibility of holding a one-day conference on the planning of libraries.

* British Records Association. *Technical Section Bulletin, No. 5*, April, 1939.

Hospital Library Accommodation

By C. E. A. BEDWELL

formerly Chairman of the Guild of Hospital Librarians

The decision of the Conference Committee to include in its programme the subject of library accommodation provides an opportunity to consider one sadly neglected aspect—library accommodation for patients in hospital. In doing so, however, it is not claimed that the hospital library is a special library in the accepted sense of the term, although a recent development seems likely to bring the work of the hospital librarians into close association with Aslib. The subject has recently been receiving the anxious consideration of the Guild of Hospital Librarians, who find themselves hampered in their ministrations to the sick by present conditions.

It is a recognized principle that the library for patients in hospital is an extension of the home service provided by the public libraries. The patient is a ratepayer in a hospital bed instead of in his own at home. On the other hand, the patient in a voluntary hospital may be drawn from any areas, and the claim of the patients to the services of the local library rests upon the fact that the hospital in its corporate capacity is a ratepayer. These considerations, however, are incidental to a service which has grown into a national organization under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It has been developed remarkably through the activities of those immediately engaged in it, who have enrolled themselves in the Guild of Hospital Librarians.

It is necessary to give attention to the origin of the library service, as this has a definite bearing upon the question of accommodation. From the earliest days there has been some appreciation of the need for a place from which to supply books to patients, primarily as part of the religious ministrations ; and very often it has been, and in some cases still is, the care of the chaplain. So it came about quite naturally that the chaplain's room became the obvious repository of any light literature which might be given to him for the patients. Occasionally a chaplain might be appointed with some idea of order and tidiness, and then he would find that the books were rather too much for his room, and so appealed to the hospital authorities for a cupboard in the corridor. A more enthusiastic chaplain enlisted a body of voluntary ladies, who took books round the wards two or three times a week. There are hospitals where that kind of service has been in regular operation for half a century or more. Their accommodation was some room such as that used by the Linen League, who were responsible for the hospital mending, and quite often the library was in the charge of the same group of women.

A considerable development of this library service for patients took place as a result of the appreciation shown in the Services for the admirable arrangements made for them during the war of 1914–1918 by the Library of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, originally established by Mrs. Gaskell, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Hagberg Wright and Sir (now Lord) Courtauld Thomson, and by them entrusted to a committee. Mrs. Gaskell was successful in maintaining for the benefit of the civilian patients the interest and enthusiasm given to the Service patients. The women engaged in this work have seen its value and learnt for themselves the very real appreciation felt for it by the patients. A reaction greatly to their credit has been their desire to make themselves more worthy and efficient for this service to the sick. The public libraries, too, have made their contribution by organising and in some places supplying the library service. The main point is that the accommodation has not kept pace with the development of the service, and at the present time does not approach the conception of its possibilities presented in the course of this War. The position has now been reached that reading has a definite place in the rehabilitation of the patients. The medical

profession are laying emphasis upon the fact. At a most successful conference on reading as a restorative organized this summer by the Guild of Hospital Librarians, Sir Drummond Shiels spoke most convincingly of the therapeutic value of reading. At the same conference the Canadian matron-in-chief (Lieut. Colonel Riches) described the library* as an integral part of the hospital work in the same way as the X-Ray and pathological departments. That conception is embodied in the hospital of her training school, the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, where the library for the patients occupies a central position. The spacious room, well lit, where patients can browse around the shelves or sit down comfortably for a little while, would put to shame the poky little hole without proper shelving or furniture which, by an abuse of the English language, is called a library in a great many hospitals here.

The library is thus in the same category as other departments which clamour for a central position and is as much entitled to it. At present, however, we have not reached the stage of its inclusion as a matter of course in any original plans of either extensions or new building. There is an occasional exception.

The nature and extent of the accommodation required for the library depends very much upon the type of hospital and the people who are to be allowed the use of it. In practice the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem have confined their provision of books to patients. This has created a practical difficulty, as the patients recommend the books to the nurses who take these away to their own rooms, and in order to secure their return it has been found necessary to give the nurses the use of the library. But from the point of view of accommodation this does not mean that there is need for provision to be made so that the nurses can sit in the library. The nurses generally have their own recreation room, and the balance of convenience for the nurses, as well as for the patients, as library users seems to be that each should have their own sanctum. Nor does it seem necessary to make provision for other members of the staff, even if, as in Canadian and American hospitals, they are allowed to borrow the books. The principal section of the hospital community who require consideration in this connection are the resident medical officers. As a body they read very little, and the medical man with literary tastes is sufficiently rare to be noticeable. However desirable it may be to encourage them as book borrowers, there is no need to provide accommodation for them to sit in the library. The conclusion, therefore, is that where there are ambulant patients there should be provided a homely little sanctum where they can browse and get all the restful atmosphere of a good private library. The ordinary type of public library furniture is neither necessary nor altogether desirable. All the patients are clean. Rarely even will they have outdoor clothing, so that coverings both for the floor and for the chairs might be different, and there might even be a tablecloth.

A necessary part of the equipment of the hospital library are the trolleys for taking the books round the wards. If provision is to be made for patients to have some sitting accommodation, then these rather unwieldly pieces of furniture should find a place elsewhere. They belong, as it were, to the office routine for which provision is also necessary, though the librarian, too, may equally have an objection to having them in her room. If the microfilm projector service in which Aslib is taking such a kindly interest develops and is entrusted to the Librarian, the obvious custodian, that will be something else to be placed in her charge for which she has to find room.

On the basis, then, of the average size hospital of eight hundred to one thousand beds, which is now generally accepted, the library quarters will require three rooms. One of them, which will contain the collection of about five thousand books and microfilms, will need seating accommodation for something like twenty patients and even then, in some hospitals, its use may have to be allotted to particular hours for separate groups ; an office for the librarian and her assistants, and an annexe to that for the trolleys and microfilm

* See Appendix to this paper, page 81.

projectors. In some libraries, though perhaps not all, there may be needed another allocation of accommodation for the book repairing work which is one of the voluntary librarian's activities. That, however, is a point upon which it may be desirable to proceed more slowly, as book repairing is an admirable form of occupation therapy for the patients and, looking to the future, it may be possibly entrusted to them.

If this model plan be generally accepted, then it may be modified *mutatis mutandis* to meet the requirements of hospitals of different sizes, though it may require considerable modification for types of hospitals other than those for the general medical and surgical patients. For example, if the hospital has a maternity unit, it is often considered a wise precaution to keep the book supply separate as, although books do not carry infection, it is desirable specially to safeguard the maternity patients, who are always liable to special risks in hospital.

Under present conditions, however, the prospect of considerable extensions or new buildings is not immediate, while the need for the library is one which will not brook delay. Happily there are some hospital authorities which are recognizing the fact, and steady improvements are being made in the accommodation. As there may be considerable changes in the style of hospital architecture and buildings of a less solid character may take the place of structures whose durability has rendered them quite unsuitable to keep pace with the progress of medical science, there is opportunity for those concerned with construction to introduce some new method of providing for the library department. The aim to be kept in mind is that, given a good librarian and a reasonable collection of books, there still remains a substantial contribution to be made to the welfare of the patients by the environment of the library. In the minds of a good many people there is a certain prejudice against the hutment which has been provided during the present war. It is possible to create within the library section quite a restful atmosphere. Its location, as an annexe, if there be no alternative, deserves very careful consideration from the standpoint of accessibility. Why must an annexe be always on the ground floor? Could not a little ingenuity elevate it to a suitable situation adjoining the first floor?

In some types of hospitals, such as T.B. sanatoria, where patients may have a long stay giving opportunities for serious study, the library accommodation may need to make some special provision. From the point of view of the supervising officer alcoves are not always acceptable, but they are attractive to the reader and give a definite reason for the position of some of the bookcases.

The contribution of the library to the welfare of mental patients in mental hospitals is a matter upon which the Board of Control have laid emphasis for some years. There is no doubt that in them, as in the hospitals for the physically sick, there has been considerable progress in recent years. In some new buildings provision has been made specifically for the library. Observations which have been made about the environmental influence upon the reader apply with even greater force to those who are distressed in mind, though their use of the library more nearly approaches to that of the ordinary public library.

There is one type of hospital which is frequently left out of consideration, although reading would often be a relief to long hours of loneliness, and that is the fever hospital. From the medical point of view it has its own particular problems, among which the accommodation for the library should have a place.

It is one of the features of the Conferences of Aslib that from them develops some practical action. So, on this occasion, a plea may well be put forward that the Council will give consideration to the desirability of supporting the Guild of Hospital Librarians in their endeavours to secure more satisfactory accommodation for libraries in hospitals. From their special knowledge of the contribution which can be made to the value of a library by suitable accommodation the Association has a right to be heard by the Association of Municipal

Corporations, British Hospitals Association, County Councils Association, King Edward's Hospital Fund, London County Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Pensions, Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

(*For Appendix to this paper, see opposite page.*—Ed.).

DISCUSSION

The chair was taken by Mr. S. W. Gibson. The following took part in the discussion: Mr. S. K. Jones, Mr. D. V. Arnold, Miss M. F. Austin, Mr. F. Barlow and Mr. D. C. Henrik Jones.

The Chairman introduced the speaker. Mr. Bedwell, referring to the previous session on the planning of libraries, said that far from there being any question of the planning of hospital libraries, there was often no accommodation at all. He felt very grateful to Aslib for the opportunity given him in a very full programme to tell them something of libraries in hospitals, and patients in bed in hospitals at the moment would be glad to know that a large conference of librarians was interested in the provisions being made for them. He had seen a report in which it was suggested that libraries should be accommodated near the room of the hospital almoner—about the most inconvenient place from the point of view of the in-patients, being most often situated near the out-patients' department. Perhaps the position was now improving, and it was becoming recognised that the room used for the library must be near enough for the ambulatory patients to visit it. Mr. Bedwell thought that his paper and that of the previous speaker belonged to entirely different worlds, for, in spite of improvements, the books in a hospital were often kept in odd corners, such as the end of a corridor. The war of 1914–18 had produced certain improvements, and progress had been made during this war, but he visualised another stage when we might have in this country hospitals like those on the other side of the Atlantic. The hospital library should cover the needs of both the staff and the patients, being professional as well as recreative. When this was achieved the question might well arise "Is a hospital library a special library?"

Mr. S. K. Jones, who mentioned that his library was not a medical but a theological library, referred to Mr. Bedwell's last point, and asked, if the hospital was to provide for both staff and patients, should not the two sections be kept apart? He thought that it should not be made possible for patients to read up information about their illnesses.

Mr. D. V. Arnold asked what was the relationship between the Guild of Hospital Librarians and the public libraries. Did the hospitals contact public libraries to see if they were prepared to lend their books to hospital patients? Should not the development of the hospital services be linked with the public libraries? Mr. Bedwell, replying, said he welcomed the opportunity to express his cordial appreciation of the active help of the Library Association. In some places the facilities were provided entirely by the public library. Voluntary service libraries were more often to be found in the voluntary hospitals.

Miss G. F. Austin believed there were great possibilities for co-operation between public libraries and hospitals. In Nottingham a scheme had just been started for the Mental Hospital for both staff and patients. There should be joint committees on a county basis.

Mr. F. Barlow stated that in Croydon the Public Health Committee paid a contribution for books, and an assistant from the Public Library went twice a week to the hospital. There was also a library in the one-time workhouse which now, unfortunately, was housed in a little hole. Warlingham Park Hospital (mental home) had a library run partly by the patients. The Public Assistance Committee contributed in the same way as the Public Health Committee.

Mr. D. C. Henrik Jones said that the Library Association was specially concerned with hospitals. It had a Hospital Library Committee, of which Mr. Bedwell was a member. The Association was anxious to help in the training of hospital librarians and also to provide first-class libraries for hospitals.

Mr. Gibson thanked Mr. Bedwell for his paper, and said that the interest and enthusiasm displayed in the discussion gave good hope for the future.

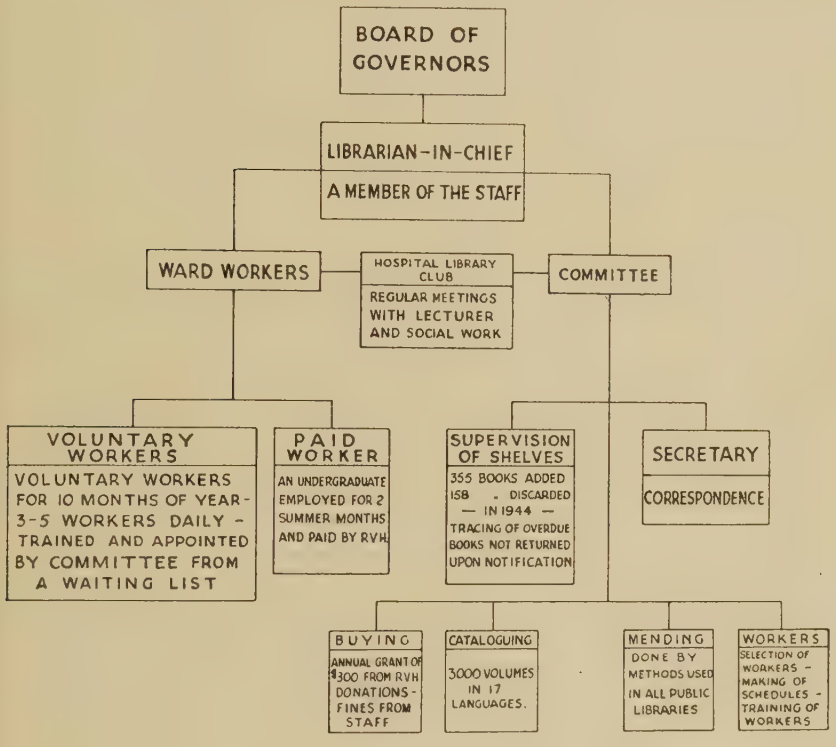
Appendix to Mr. Bedwell's paper on "Hospital Library Accommodation (kindly supplied by Lieut.-Colonel Riches, Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces).

Royal Victoria Hospital Library, Montreal

CARRIED ON BY

VOLUNTEER WORK

Established March 1917 by McGill Alumnae. R.V.H. Library founded in 1920.


BOARD OF GOVERNORS
LIBRARIAN-IN-CHIEF
A MEMBER OF THE STAFF
WARD WORKERS
HOSPITAL LIBRARY CLUB
REGULAR MEETINGS WITH LECTURER AND SOCIAL WORK
COMMITTEE
VOLUNTARY WORKERS
VOLUNTARY WORKERS FOR 10 MONTHS OF YEAR - 3-5 WORKERS DAILY - TRAINED AND APPOINTED BY COMMITTEE FROM A WAITING LIST
PAID WORKER
AN UNDERGRADUATE EMPLOYED FOR 2 SUMMER MONTHS AND PAID BY RVH
SUPERVISION OF SHELVES
355 BOOKS ADDED
158 - DISCARDED
— IN 1944 —
TRACING OF OVERDUE BOOKS NOT RETURNED UPON NOTIFICATION
SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE
BUYING
ANNUAL GRANT OF $300 FROM RVH
DONATIONS - FINES FROM STAFF
CATALOGUING
3000 VOLUMES IN 17 LANGUAGES.
MENDING
DONE BY METHODS USED IN ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES
WORKERS
SELECTION OF WORKERS - MAKING OF SCHEDULES - TRAINING OF WORKERS

Circulation—16,915 in 1944.

Borrowers—

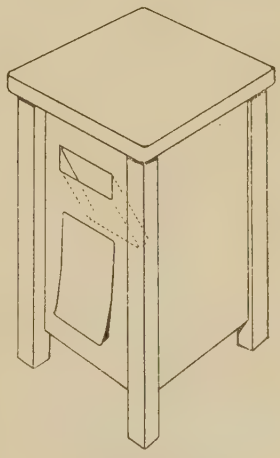
Patients—A—general
B—maternity
C—neurological
} 700 beds visited twice weekly

R.V.H. Staff—Books given out in library. Registered in borrowers cards.

Delivery—Books delivered to patient's bed by special wagon as per schedule.

Patients also supplied with books if necessary.

Returns—Books collected by workers or left in special boxes in every ward—and also in library. Notices are sent for books not returned on day due.



Ward Boxes
For Return Books

The New Microfilm Projector for Disabled Persons

By LUCIA MOHOLY, A.R.P.S.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak to you about this new machine after the preceding discussion which has made clear to us more than ever how important it is that something more should be done for patients in hospitals. I am slightly handicapped by not having been able to submit to you before the Conference a printed version of my paper. We had been hoping to get one of these machines over in good time to show here to-day; in that case my talk would have been largely comments on a demonstration, with members coming up and trying out the machine for themselves. Unfortunately the projector has not arrived. We had a model in this country six or eight weeks ago. Some of you may have seen it: it was an engineering model, which had to be returned to the manufacturers in the United States, because they wanted to go ahead with production. We expected the first finished models to arrive in this country about the middle of September; but it now appears that arrival may be delayed until sometime in October. I have, therefore, had to abandon the plan of a demonstration. Instead, I will try to describe the projector and tell you as much as I can about its working, and later invite questions.

All I have been able to show are the photographs pinned up in the vestibule. Some of them show the projector in use by hospital patients. In some ways this apparatus is not very different from other projectors, but it is very different in its application. The special feature of this projector is that it throws the image from floor level up to the ceiling. It has, in the first instance, been designed for patients who are bed-ridden and forced to lie on their backs for a very long time. In cases where patients are able to sit up, provision can be made by means of a prism arrangement for the image to be thrown on to a vertical screen or an inclined screen in a position which allows comfortable reading.

After reading matter has been selected, the film is threaded into the projector, the frame set and the image focussed. After this is done, the film may be moved from frame to frame or from page to page. One of the advantages of this projector which I should like to emphasize (partly because some of the papers which published photographs missed this point) is that, after the film has been fitted in, the patient can operate the machine on his or her own by means of a combined switch. One button serves for switching it on or off; another for moving forward from page to page; a third for turning back to consult previous pages. Thus the patient is able to read at his or her own individual speed and to skip pages, if desired. Special gadgets are provided for patients who are unable to use their hands. Knobs or pulls can be supplied which can be operated by foot, toe or heel, one to serve the forward and another to serve the backward movement. An alternative gadget helps people who have legs and arms in plaster or are unable to use them for other reasons: by means of a special adjustment resembling an earphone the projector can be operated by movements of the head to the right and to the left.

Now, how does the material actually appear to the reader? Imagine the table to be the bed and the patient lying flat on his back face upward. The projector would stand on the floor by the side of the bed, and the image would be projected to a screen or to the ceiling, allowing the patient to scan the reading matter at a suitable angle, one page at a time or two pages together. After a page has been read, one of the buttons is pressed and the page disappears to the left, whilst the next page moves in from the right. This gives the effect of proceeding from left to right as in ordinary reading. There is nothing to prevent the sequence from moving the other way round if provision for this is previously made in the film. This enables the patient to read oriental texts from right to left.

Each film is wound on a spool usually containing a full length book. A 100ft.

spool can take more than one book, but there is no obvious advantage in loading the projector with more than one book at a time.

The scheme has been tested in hospitals and approved by surgeons and librarians in the United States. The various groups are now co-operating in a non-profit making organization recently set up under the direction of Mr. Eugene B. Power. A similar organization is planned in this country. We hope that the Red Cross, the Library Association, Aslib, and the medical profession will agree to be represented. The leading spirits of the enterprise in this country are Sir John Forsdyke, Director of the British Museum, and Mr. C. E. A. Bedwell, former Chairman of the Guild of Hospital Librarians. They have not only given us encouragement and the benefit of their advice, but they have actually taken the lead in setting up the necessary machinery. I expect that in a few weeks time I may be able to report more concrete results.

I do not know whether I have covered enough ground to make you realize what the projector is like, how it works and what its advantages are. Since I am acting as my own Chairman, I suggest that I now invite questions and then carry on according to your suggestions.

DISCUSSION

The following took part in the discussion: Mr. A. B. Agard Evans, Major C. W. Hume, Miss M. Couldrey, Mr. G. K. Wilkie and Professor R. S. Hutton.

Mr. A. B. Agard Evans recalled the unexpectedly widespread interest that had been aroused by his wish, expressed at last year's Aslib Conference, for a new type of projector (then unknown in this country) for reading in bed. He congratulated Mr. Eugene Power on his ingenious idea and practical results, and suggested that Aslib would gladly co-operate in the selection of books and the supplying of films.

Mrs. Moholy said that the A.M.S. had obtained from the British Red Cross a preliminary list of books which might be microfilmed within this scheme. It was hoped that further suggestions would come in from the Library Association as well as from Aslib and other organisations. In the United States books had been selected in co-operation with the New York Public Library; a copy of this list was available for inspection.

Major C. W. Hume asked if the machine would be available for sick people only, or whether the general public could also make use of it. Mrs. Moholy explained that there would be three categories of applicants: hospitals, private patients (not in hospital) and private individuals in normal health. The first aim was to supply the projector to hospitals, and among the hospitals mainly to those for wounded soldiers. The present cost of the machine as manufactured in the United States was $90—$100, roughly £25. The organisation to be set up with the support of such bodies as the Red Cross might enable exemption from purchase tax and import duty to be claimed, thereby keeping the price of the projector as low as possible. If, at any time, private individuals should wish to import the machine, they might have to add to the original cost purchase tax and import duty as well as transport and insurance. It was possible that sooner or later the projector could be manufactured in this country under licence from the designers or perhaps to a new design; until then it would have to be imported.

Miss M. Couldrey asked what would be the publishers' attitude. Mrs. Moholy replied that the publishers' attitude also would be affected by the use to be made of the projector. In the United States publishers had granted permission to microfilm books free of royalties (subject to a nominal sum as registration fee) if intended for use in hospitals and for serious cases outside hospitals. The Publishers Association in this country had expressed willingness to do the same here. Obviously this use of microfilm for private persons not bedridden would raise the question afresh from an entirely new angle.

Mr. G. K. Wilkie asked if the microfilm produced for reading in hospitals could be read in any ordinary projector like other microfilms. Mrs. Moholy said that the type of film used for reading in hospitals was exactly the same as the film used for documentary purposes. The projector at present carried unperforated film, whilst the majority of projectors in this country were made to take perforated film only.

In reply to an enquiry by Mr. Agard Evans about precautions against over-heating, Mrs. Moholy pointed out that a heat filter could be used, but even without this there was no real danger. Whereas the cinema industry used nitrate base film, which was highly inflammable, the film used for documentary purposes was on an acetate base which only smouldered, but did not burn with a flame. When insuring films, this should be made clear to the insurance company.

Professor R. S. Hutton remarked that reading by projection, if available for private individuals outside hospitals, might create many "malades imaginaires." As for the material to be microfilmed, he recommended including the best weeklies and perhaps two daily newspapers. He also suggested that a list of books printed in braille might be helpful for selecting on similar lines books for microfilming. The publishers' consent for microfilming such books

might be more easily obtained since it had already been given once for a parallel project. On this Mrs. Moholy's comment was that a list of books produced in braille would certainly provide a very useful precedent. There was also reason to believe that some publishers might be agreeable to having their publications microfilmed because of the publicity involved.

Miss Couldrey asked, was it possible to reproduce illustrations in colour? Mrs. Moholy replied that coloured originals could be reproduced by colour films with reasonable success. Obviously the cost was very much higher, say, from fifteen to twenty times as much as for black and white film. At the moment it was difficult to produce long lengths of coloured film, but that was only a matter of time. The question of coloured film might come up sooner or later, since it was desired to include not only books for reading, serious as well as amusing, but also educational books for purposes of study and training. Thus children suffering from infantile paralysis could share in the benefits of the new scheme and attend school while lying in bed.

Some General Desk Reference Books

By Miss M. BATEMAN, M.A.

Assistant, University Library, Cambridge

In responding to the invitation to present a paper on the above subject, the following introductory remarks are called for:

(1) The list I submit has been purposely limited to general, i.e. non-specialist, reference books, such as any librarian might keep on or near his desk.

(2) It is assumed that there will be a larger collection of other reference works in the main library. This applies especially to encyclopaedias, which I have not included in my list, as much of the matter which could be incorrated in a small, and therefore limited, encyclopaedia would be adequately covered by the various kinds of reference books given in the list.

(3) It is clearly impossible to standardise even a general collection of reference books, since the interests and requirements of special librarians vary so considerably. This applies not only to professional, but also to language and geographical, factors.

(4) Each librarian will therefore also need specialist reference books, which will fill shelf-space additional to that of the general collection.

(5) It is clear that no two individuals would make the same selection of books, even for an identical field of interest. It is hoped that others will, from their own experience, suggest alternatives and additions to the list which I have made.

I—Guides to sources of information and to reference books

THE USE OF REFERENCE MATERIAL, by J. D. Cowley. Grafton and Co., 1937. 7*s.* 6*d.*

HOW TO FIND OUT, by L. McColvin. H. Toulmin, 1933. 2*s.* 6*d.*

II—Dictionaries

THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY (3rd. ed.) Edited by H. W. Fowler and H. G. Le Mesurier. Oxford U.P., 1944. 10*s.*

AUTHORS' AND PRINTERS' DICTIONARY, by F. H. Collins (7th ed.) Oxford U.P., 1933. 4*s.*

NUTTALL'S DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS, by G. E. Christ. F. Warne and Co., 1943. 7*s* 6*d.*

CHAMBERS' TECHNICAL DICTIONARY (3rd ed.) Edited by C. F. Tweney and L. E. C. Hughes. W. and R. Chambers, 1944. 20*s.*

II—Dictionaries (*continued*)

DICTIONARY OF DATES, by E. F. Smith (7th ed.) (Everyman's Library). J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 1940. 3*s.*

III—Biographical

WHO'S WHO (*Annual*) A. and C. Black. 75*s.*

DICTIONARY OF UNIVERSAL BIOGRAPHY, by A. M. Hyamson. Routledge, 1916. 25*s.*

IV—Statistical and other Year Books

WHITAKER'S ALMANACK (*Annual*) J. Whitaker. 10*s.*

STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK (*Annual*) Edited by M. Epstein. Macmillan. 30*s.*

ANNUAL REGISTER (*Annual*) Longmans. 42*s.*

CLASSIFIED LIST OF ANNUALS AND YEAR BOOKS Aslib, 1933. 3*s.* 6*d.*

TITLES AND FORMS OF ADDRESS (5th ed.) A. and C. Black, 1945. 5*s.*

V—Periodicals

WILLING'S PRESS GUIDE (*Annual*) Willing Service. 8*s.* 6*d.*

VI—Maps, Directories, Guide Books and other local reference books

HANDY REFERENCE ATLAS OF THE WORLD (14th ed.) Bartholomew, 1940. 12*s* 6*d.*

LONDON POCKET ATLAS AND GUIDE. Bartholomew, 1939. 3*s.* 6*d.*

Or

BARTHOLOMEW'S REFERENCE ATLAS OF GREATER LONDON (7th ed.), 1940. 21*s.*

POST OFFICES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM H.M. Postmaster General, 1941. 1*s.* 6*d.*

POST OFFICE GUIDE. (*Annual*) H.M.S.O., July, 1945. 1*s.*

BRADSHAW'S GUIDE TO THE BRITISH RAILWAYS (*Monthly*) 4*s.*

VII—Some suspended reference books, whose re-issue is awaited

ASLIB DIRECTORY TO SOURCES OF SPECIALISED INFORMATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND Oxford U.P., 1928. 10*s.* 6*d.*

BRITISH IMPERIAL CALENDAR AND CIVIL SERVICE LIST H.M. Stationery Office, 1940. 5*s.*

GUIDE TO CURRENT OFFICIAL STATISTICS H.M. Stationery Office, 1939. 1*s.*

WHO'S WHO IN LITERATURE Literary Year Books Press, 1934. 12*s.* 6*d.*

MINERVA. JAHRBUCH DER GELEHRTEN WELT (3 vols.) W. de Gruyter, Berlin, 1938.

NOTES

Section I—*The Aslib Directory* (1928) has been brought up to date in several sections by the issue of "*Wartime Guides.*" Other Aslib publications, such as the *Select List of Standard British Scientific and Technical Books, the Classified List of Annuals and Year Books,* and the recently issued *Manual of Special Library Technique,* by J. E. Wright, also deserve mention. The well-known bibliographies of Minto and Mudge should be in all large general libraries. Louis Shores' *Basic Reference Books* only deals with about one-tenth of the number of books included in Mudge, but gives more detailed annotations and may be recommended despite its natural American predilection. For desk use Cowley and McColvin have been selected. A similar work to these is Bagley's *Facts and how to find them* (Pitman, 1938. 2*s.* 6*d.*).

Section II—The choice of foreign language dictionaries depends so much on the professional or technical field of the library, and on the degree of knowledge of the languages by the librarian,* that no selection of foreign dictionaries is given. The small illustrated Larousse *Dictionnaire complet illustré* and *Der Sprach Brockhaus* (Pitman, 1935) are in any case worthy of consideration when again available. A dictionary of abbreviations is also desirable. F. H. Collins' *Authors' and printers' dictionary* is recommended, since it also contains much important information concerning punctuation, italicising and proof-correction.

* See, however, J. E. Holmstrom, Report of 14th Aslib Conference, 1937, pages 83-95

There are many dictionaries of synonyms and antonyms, one of which should be available. A dictionary of dates may answer many kinds of questions. The larger standard books should be in the main library, and the one selected is intended primarily for urgent use.

Section III—*Who's Who* may be supplemented by corresponding publications of other countries, or by specialist " who's who's " of the various professional fields. While Hyamson is recommended for desk use, the larger and more detailed *Universal Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology* (Lippincott, 1930. 65*s.*) may be preferred.

Section IV—Whitaker is indispensable, but should be supplemented at least by the other books listed.

The *Statesman's Year Book* is a statistical and historical annual of the States of the World in 3 parts—British Commonwealth, U.S.A., and other countries. Particularly useful are the lists of books given for each country.

The *Annual Register* is a useful review of public events at home and abroad. It covers most fields, including literature, art and science.

The Aslib *Classified List of Annuals and Year Books* can serve to select books in this class, according to the special interests of the individual library.

Titles and Forms of Address may be useful for contacting titled and professional persons, and gives also a list of abbreviations of titles, degrees, etc.

Section V—*Willing's Press Guide* gives particulars of newspapers, magazines and other British periodicals.

The *World List of Scientific Periodicals* and the *Union Catalogue of Periodicals* will doubtless be available in the main library, and a local union list of periodicals may be available for certain districts.

Section VI—The local and the trade or professional directories most closely related to the library's interest should find a place. A local map, street guide, telephone directory and railway time-table should also be included.

The Post Office guides will serve as a handy British gazetteer, and a World Atlas is a natural inclusion.

Section VII—The *British Imperial Calendar* is one of the few sources of information on the personnel of Government Departments, the publication of which has been suspended during the War.

The *Guide to Current Official Statistics* is a classified, well-indexed list which serves as a valuable introduction to a wide range of government publications.

Who's Who in Literature is recommended as it contains a useful list of pseudonyms.

The German publication *Minerva* used to provide good lists of the staffs of universities and other cultural institutions throughout the World. To supplement the *Year Book of Universities of the Empire* it is hoped that a similar international publication will be available.

The dates in this section each refer to the latest edition published.

Some references to other selections of desk reference books :

J. E. Wright. Manual of Special Library Technique (Page 64).
B. M. Headicar. Reference books and how to make the best use of them. Aslib, 12th Annual Conference Report.
Idem. Aids to research. London School of Economics, 1931.
Wilson Library Bulletin, Vol. 16. Sept., 1941. (Page 15).
L. Shores. Basic Reference books. A.L.A., 1939 (Page 388)
J. I. Wyer. Reference Work. A.L.A., 1930 (Page 117)

The last three mentioned are, of course, from an American viewpoint.

DISCUSSION

The chair was taken by Miss M. Gosset. The following members contributed various items to the appended list of additional suggestions for desk reference books : Miss J. Barton, Mr. E. J. Carter, Mr. A. B. Agard Evans, Mr. B. Fullman, Mr. C. J. Golledge, Mr. B. M. Headicar, Major C. W. Hume, Corporal J. W. Jeffrey, Mr. W. R. Le Fanu, Miss A. M. Mostel, Miss B. Schafer, Mr. G. A. Shires, Mr. E. N. Simons and Mr. M. H. Waterfall.

In introducing Miss Bateman, Miss Gosset expressed her great pleasure in taking the chair for this particular paper, as the Science Library owed a debt of gratitude to Cambridge University Library for their kindness in storing for the last four years the old books belonging to the Science Library. Miss Bateman had undertaken a very difficult task in compiling her list. Everyone would have their own particular reference books in mind, and she hoped that after Miss Bateman had spoken on her paper people would give the names of any works not mentioned, in order that as complete a list as possible might be printed in the Report.

Miss Bateman said that when she had accepted the invitation to give a paper on Desk Reference Books, and had set to work to compile a list, she had found the task very interesting

but somewhat complex. In a copyright library she had easy access to more reference books than she could ever hope to use. The very title of the paper had imposed a limit, because one could not get many books on a desk ; it would need to be a gigantic desk to hold copies of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Cumulative Index*. As her list had increased in length she had adopted the method used in the A.A. Handbook of starring the most important books. The number of books to be included was not the only difficulty. The choice must also depend on the type of Library. A Chemical and an Arts Library would not need the same reference books, and Miss Bateman hoped that in the discussion scientists would put forward suggestions of the type of book which they needed. She thanked Mr. McColvin for the display of reference books which he had arranged ; many of them were not included in her list. Among other omissions were language dictionaries. When her list was finished, she had shown it to her colleagues, and would now like to add some of their suggestions. For instance, no Encyclopaedia had been included, so both the *Everyman* and *Pears'* encyclopaedias had been added. Two of her colleagues had suggested the *Index and Epitome to the Dictionary of National Biography*—an invaluable one volume summary. Since including *How to Find Out*, by L. R. McColvin, she had seen *Library Stock and Assistance to Readers* by the same author with E. R. McColvin, and this should certainly be added. Another point was that neither of the London street guides already on her list showed Little Titchfield Street, so if the Conference had trusted solely to her recommendations no one would have found the way to that meeting ! Miss Bateman concluded by referring to Mr. E. J. Carter's letter which appeared in *The Times* of August 24th, 1945, drawing attention to the urgent need for reprinting of Government publications which had become out of date during the war.

In closing the meeting Miss Gosset thanked Miss Bateman for her interesting summary of the paper and said it had been a most stimulating meeting. Adding one name to the list of works, i.e. *The United States Government Manual*, 1st edition, 1945, published by the Division of Public Inquiries, Office of War Information, Miss Gosset described this as a most useful work giving particulars of the many ramifications of U.S. Government Departments.

The following Desk Reference Books suggested by Miss Bateman and other members for addition to her original list are given here in the order in which they were suggested

Everyman's Encyclopaedia Edited by Ridgway and Holmyard. Dent, 1940. 12 vols., 6*s.* 6*d.* each ; supplementary vol. 8*s.* 6*d.* *Out of print, new edition to be issued shortly.*

Dictionary of National Biography—Index and Epitome. O.U.P., 1930. 25*s.*

Library Stock and Assistance to Readers. L. R. and E. R. McColvin. Grafton, 1936. 10*s.* 6*d.* *New issue at the binders*

Dictionary of Modern English Usage, by W. H. Fowler. O.U.P., 1926. 8*s.* 6*d.*

Smith's Classical Dictionary. John Murray. 21*s.*

Smith's Smaller Classical Dictionary. Edited by E. H. Blakeney. Dent, 1942. 3*s.*

Stock Exchange Official Year Book (*Annual*). Thomas Skinner. 80*s.*

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Some Notes on the Great Book Shortage

By E. M. R. DITMAS, M.A.

General Secretary of Aslib

The existence of a shortage of books is generally accepted, though the effects of that shortage, both now and in the future, are not always fully appreciated. The following notes are put forward in the hope that they may provide a basis for constructive discussion leading towards some definite action.

The causes of the book shortage are fairly widely known, but they are recapitulated here for convenience.

(1) Paper restrictions have necessitated choice between reasonably large editions of very few titles or smaller editions spread over a larger number of titles. The latter choice has been more usual, with the result that it is common knowledge that many of the most important books are out of print almost before the reviews of them appear in authoritative journals. In many cases reprints are made as paper becomes available, but since the date of reprinting is seldom certain, the would-be customer may continue to miss the book, particularly since many booksellers cannot undertake to keep long lists of requirements from individuals on the chance that certain of the titles may be reprinted.

(2) Even if the quota of paper could be substantially increased at an early date, the book shortage would not be cured at once. There is as serious a shortage of skilled labour in the printing and binding industries, a fact that is sometimes overlooked by those who clamour for more paper.

(3) Specialist publications, which are expensive to print because of their illustrations and diagrams, were generally carried in stocks designed to last some years. It was these stocks of standard works on scientific and technical subjects which suffered so severely in the great incendiary raids on London in 1940–41. Many of these will not be re-published because the replacement of the expensive plates for the illustrations, etc., would be out of all proportion to the sales that could be expected. Although these books were, in many cases, standard works which are still valuable in many fields, they will be replaced in due course by more up-to-date works or revised editions, but, as they fall out of print, serious gaps arise before new ones can be written and published in sufficient quantities.

Bearing the above facts in mind, let us now consider the actual results of the book shortage in its effects on education, research, Empire inter-communication and the re-establishment of cultural relations in Europe.

EDUCATION

Investigations undertaken by the National Union of Teachers and other organizations into the effect of the book shortage on education have shown that it is, and will be, serious. For the purpose of this discussion, the effect of the shortage on elementary, junior and infant school teaching can be ignored, though the serious aspect of this position in relation to the very young should not be minimised.

Secondary schools report that standard editions of English poets are practically unobtainable, English textbooks are in very short supply and some books needed for the Higher School certificate are quite unobtainable. Scientific textbooks on biology, chemistry and physics are reported to be very difficult to get, foreign language books are frequently out of print. One school stated that it had been waiting nine months for one of the set books in the School Certificate (English), that five grammar books had been received out of thirty-six ordered, and that many textbooks had not been received twelve months after ordering.

Technical schools and colleges report that mathematical textbooks are in short supply, that the more advanced books are even more difficult to obtain, and in one case books were still unobtainable after fifteen months.

It has been said that good teachers can overcome difficulties arising from shortage of textbooks. Up to a point this is probably true, though it puts a very heavy burden on the teaching profession, already strained to meet the needs of the extension of education. Nevertheless, though it may be possible, by blackboard work and notes, to provide children with the facts necessary to pass examinations, the absence of books which they may call their own, particularly in such subjects as literature and history, will have a very serious effect on their attitude towards such subjects after they leave school. True education, which is something wider and deeper than the mere passing of examinations, is seriously handicapped if a child can never learn to love a book as his own possession and to appreciate it as something more than a utilitarian tool.

It is estimated that, although the demand for university text books has been cut in certain subjects, these same books have been bought by non-student readers to a far greater extent than was normal in pre-war days. On the other hand the production of university textbooks is now about 50 per cent. of normal. Stocks, even where not damaged by enemy action, are therefore nearing exhaustion and will be quite inadequate to meet the heavy demand that will arise as the universities swing back to a normal curriculum. Moreover, there is no certainty that books " set " for a specific examination will be available to the students. An examining body may enquire whether 500 copies will be available, but there is no machinery by which those copies can be ear-marked for the students, unless, contrary to present practice in many universities, the books are purchased in advance by the university for re-sale to the students. Here again, though students can " make-do " with fewer textbooks, there will be waste of time, and possibly waste of scholarly appreciation, if one textbook has to be shared amongst many. There will be a tendency to too much dependence on the lecturer's notes and too little of the fresh appraisal of a topic which should emerge in the later stages of university education.

A good deal of stress has been laid on the effects of the shortage of books in both secondary and university education because in their long-term results these are likely to be deplorable on the nation as a whole.

RESEARCH

The following data were supplied by the research section of a large industrial firm carrying on research of vital national importance. The position stated was that which existed at the beginning of June, 1945 ; certain data are included relating to import of American books, in connection with which paragraph 6 should be noted :

(1) Out of thirty-three books on subjects related to personnel management ordered in the last twelve months, only four were received. These were mostly British and the usual reply was " out of print " or " reprinting."

(2) Of 125 books ordered during the last six months, consisting of standard texts on liquid fuel and related subjects, only fifty-one have been received, even though it was stated that second-hand copies would be acceptable. Thirty-six of the missing books were American.

(3) Of thirty-five engineering texts ordered in the last six months, only thirteen have been received.

(4) There is frequent demand for dictionaries, particularly the Shorter Oxford, but good ones cannot be obtained.

(5) The following figures show how the position has become steadily worse :

	Books obtained more than two months after request	Books asked for and not obtained
BRITISH		
1942	20%	16%
1943	15%	24%
1944	12%	26%
1945 (5 months) ..	16%	58%
AMERICAN		
1942	50%	9%
1943	60%	18%
1944	67%	38%
1945 (5 months) ..	1%	88%

(6) This firm notes : " About half our books are American. British publications will no doubt increase again after the war, but it is worth while remembering that the Americans, besides reporting much fundamental work, are specially good at preparing compilation and reference books (c.f. the remarkable services of A.C.S. Monographs). In addition to an extra allocation of paper for British books, it is very much to be desired that we shall be able to import a larger number of copies of American ones."

These notes have been quoted in full because they may be considered a very good illustration of the way in which the shortage of books, considered as tools for research, may be actively hampering the nation's industrial and scientific development. Furthermore, the hope expressed in the last sentence of the above paragraph is not likely to be realized as yet. With the ending of Lend-Lease, British stocks of dollars will have to be expended with careful thought. Few would dispute that food and the raw materials for industry must receive the highest priority, but if books are put too far down the list, if they are considered as articles of luxury or merely as a commodity of trade, we may, by falling behind in the knowledge of advances in organization and in science, find ourselves making a less economic use of our dearly bought imports than might have been otherwise. The world knows to its cost that modern science advances quickly, that the result of some apparently unrelated " academic " experiment may be the spark that sets ablaze a whole chain of discoveries. The printed word is the channel of communication, the essential tool for progress. *We cannot afford not to import these books and periodicals.*

EMPIRE INTER-COMMUNICATION

At Aslib's 1944 Conference the symposium on the Empire contribution to the flow of world information included a number of papers giving details of the manner in which information from this country was disseminated to the Empire and on the other hand, the increasingly important contribution from the Dominions and Colonies received here. This year's symposium has covered links with the U.S.A., the essential complement to Empire intercommunication if the English speaking peoples are to reach that mutual

understanding on which rests our only hope of future peace. Yet just as the printed publication forms the record of scientific achievement and the line of communication between widely separated groups of research workers, so also the printed word is the vital link between the separate parts of the Empire and between the Empire and the U.S.A. Mutual understanding will depend much on a healthy interchange of literature in its widest sense, and this again presupposes both adequate supplies of books and the necessary transport.

The importance of this interchange of knowledge and of culture is stressed by Dr. Thomas Wood in his letter to the *Times* of 10th May, 1945, when he writes: "... we must as a Commonwealth and an Empire look out as well as in and we must learn to think world-wide. In the Pacific alone are two great peoples of our own blood, the Australians and the New Zealanders. As things stand now we at home know far too little of them, they know far too little of us; and *mutatis mutandis* throughout the Empire that is true. We need an interchange—of men, ideas, knowledge, friendships, plans, facts, trade, books, music, broadcasts, pictures, films; indeed the whole range of endeavour and achievement—planned with imagination, zealously financed, avuncular to every present scheme, and carried through on a scale that in the past has never been attempted."

The Empire is eager for British books, but the supply available is quite inadequate for the demand. The *Bookseller* has recently printed a series of articles on the subject.* All these agree that the potential demand is large, but there is danger in this fact if the demand cannot be satisfied reasonably soon. War conditions and war transport could excuse the poor British supply, but if these shortages continue for too long, the demand for books which is urgent will be satisfied from American sources. Enough has been said above to show that here is no suggestion that American books should be excluded, but the rising generation should have the opportunity for reading the best of both literatures. The United States has always shown a lively appreciation of the value of books and its American libraries are already established in London, Sydney, Johannesburg, etc. A British information centre, the first in Australia, was opened in Sydney by the British Government in January, 1945. "Its small library of about 500 pamphlets and books is a mere nucleus of what it is hoped it will ultimately be and ought to be, yet it is the object of constant reference by visitors, and many more inquiries are answered by letter and telephone ... the success of the Sydney centre justifies repeated pleas for the establishment of similar centres in all Australian capitals. The need is especially urgent in Melbourne and Brisbane." So writes the *Times* correspondent on 14th May, 1945. Have we any real hope that in two years time that pitifully small library, will have expanded to anything approaching Dr. Heindel's American library in London, which in two years from its inauguration could claim some 8,000 books, 10,000 documents and periodicals and more than 550 American periodicals?

If there are shortages of British books in Australia and New Zealand the position is far worse in India, where the supply cannot be augmented by imports of American books. The Chairman of the session, Mr. L. F. Brimble, one of the Editors of *Nature*, has recently returned from India and can supply valuable first-hand information on this aspect of the question.

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL RELATIONS IN EUROPE

When the minimum legitimate demands of education and research in Britain and the Empire have been met, what stocks will remain for export to Europe? Yet the demand there is enormous and the need desperate. In the *Times* of 30th

* Getting Books to Australia, by Hector Macquarrie, *Bookseller*, 3rd August, 1944.
Anglo-Canadian Publishing, by Lovatt Dickson. *Ibid.*
Supplying books to New Zealand, a letter from the High Commissioner for N.Z., *Bookseller*, November 30th, 1944.
Book market is quiet in British Guiana, *Bookseller*, April 12th, 1945.

August, 1945, Lt.-Col. I. G. Collins writes: "Food, coal and petrol to feed the body and the economic life of these countries are obviously essential, but surely books, which feed the mind should be considered more as a necessity than a luxury. . . . Books more than anything else can help to give the people of the liberated countries a picture of what has been happening in this country and so help to increase understanding and friendship. In addition English is now the secondary language and there is an enormous demand from universities and schools for educational books, classics, dictionaries and children's books."

Of all the deserving cases enumerated above, Europe's need for British books is perhaps the most important and certainly the most pressing. The future of the world is now being shaped and for five years the European peoples have been subjected to a form of mental malnutrition, coupled with insidious Nazi propaganda. They are eager to learn what has been happening outside their prison walls, to understand our viewpoint, to appreciate our problems. The B.B.C. broadcasts to Europe are being greatly reduced and the printed word, therefore, acquires still greater importance. If red tape and exchange difficulties are allowed to prevent access to our publications—such as can be made available from our meagre stocks—we shall have only ourselves to blame for misunderstandings which may greatly delay the re-settlement of Europe.

SUMMARY

The foregoing notes may be summarized in the statement that there is an immediate demand for British publications far in advance of the pre-war normal demand. At the same time, booksellers' and publishers' stocks are at their lowest and replacements and newly published works are a mere fraction of the normal, so that the discrepancy between supply and demand grows monthly.

The remedy must take into account labour, in both the paper-making and the printing and bookbinding industries, as well as transport. Both the labour and the material required are a very small part of our national economy, but the importance of the results would be out of all proportion to their size.

DISCUSSION

The chair was taken by Mr. L. J. F. Brimble. In the discussion the following took part: Mr. Emrys Davies, Major C. W. Hume, Dr. V. E. Parke, Mr. R. S. Craddock, Miss D. Herz, Mr. A. E. Cummins, Professor R. S. Hutton, Mr. H. L. Jackson, Mr. E. N. Simons, Mr. W. R. Le Fanu, Miss L. G. Thomerson, Miss B. Schafer, Mr. B. M. Headicar, Mr. B. Fullman, Miss A. M. Mostel, Mr. L. G. Patrick, Mr. D. C. Henrik Jones, Mr. C. J. Golledge and Mr. E. J. Carter.

The Chairman said that he felt gratified to have been asked to take the chair at this session. There had always been close collaboration between *Nature* and Aslib. This discussion, which promised to be very important, was to be reported fully in *Nature*. The reviews in *Nature* were a way of bringing books to the notice of the public. *Nature* usually allowed reviewers to keep the books. Yet *Nature* was inundated with books from abroad, especially Russian books, which the editors asked to be returned to *Nature* so that they could be passed on to the Science Library. A tremendous quantity of books was being used in the world to-day, and the present shortage was pernicious. He hoped that the discussion would cover the problem as it affected the whole world, not Britain alone. He had just returned from India, where the effect of the book shortage was appalling in scientific research, universities, schools, etc.

Miss Ditmas, presenting her paper, said that she did not propose to go through her notes in detail. She only wished to emphasise that the notes had been compiled from the consumer's and user's point of view and not from the publisher's. It was doubtful whether the general public were aware of the implications of the shortage for the consumer. Her paper was divided into sections, to show the effect of the book shortage on education, research, Empire inter-communications and re-establishment of cultural relations with Europe. In the section on education stress was laid on universities and secondary schools; the section on research, although dealing mainly with industrial research, referred to pure research as well; that on Empire inter-communications linked up with last year's symposium, and Mr. Brimble, having just returned from India, would be able to emphasise this point. The importance of the re-establishment of cultural relations with Europe had lately been given great emphasis in correspondence published in the daily Press.

Mr. Emrys Davies said that his organisation, the National Union of Teachers, had made a wide and detailed enquiry into the effect of the book shortage in schools and colleges last year. It was quite true that many students had failed to obtain the books necessary for reading for the school certificate and higher school certificate. However, the great mass of children

went to elementary schools and it was there that one found the largest proportion of books unobtainable. This was a very serious matter, and if priority were to be given to any one class of books it should be given to those needed in the ordinary schools of this country. If standards of appreciation were to be improved, we must help the boys and girls in the modern schools. The Ministry of Education was being pressed in this matter. Mr. Davies had been teaching until recently, and his own experience was that teachers had been frustrated by the absence of books. With large classes the textbook or reader was very important; a much larger field could be covered with more books. The National Union of Teachers had begun a new enquiry into the effect of the book shortage in 1945, and this had shown that the consequences of the book shortage were very serious. The resulting interference in the schooling of children was much more serious than the effect on adults. Deprecating a current tendency to exaggerate results of the shortage in this respect, the CHAIRMAN said that the effects of the shortage upon children and adults respectively were two totally different problems. The number of books wanted for research was small, whilst the number of books required for schools ran into hundreds of thousands. When publishers had to choose between educational and popular books, educational books received priority. Books needed for research and at universities were the most important.

MAJOR C. W. HUME related the case of a village near Calais where four children had to share one book, looking at it from four different sides. This had one good effect: the children learned to read upside down.

DR. V. E. PARKE stressed the importance of the section showing the serious effects of the book shortage on research. They were not limited to the newer subjects, but spread throughout all the field of the research department and, indeed, into the work of all the I.C.I. departments served by the Billingham Library. The rapid increase, as shown in the figures given in the paper, of the proportion of books that could not be obtained at all, was particularly regrettable and applied both to British and American books. He suggested that the proper action might not lie in a resolution of the meeting, but in consultation of Aslib with all sections of the book trade. An agreed plan to deal with the shortage might be arrived at and put by deputation to the appropriate Ministry. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the shortage of binding material had only just arisen; the shortage of paper was still very acute. However, the worst problem was the labour shortage at both printers and binders. This should, therefore, be stressed in the resolution or by the deputation.

MR. R. S. CRADDOCK said that the knowledge of war-time graduates between 20 and 25 was based on textbooks mostly published by American publishers, e.g. McGraw Hill, Interscience Publishers, etc. Therefore, students tended to think that books published by these publishers were the most important. The CHAIRMAN suggested that this did not matter much, as books produced by these publishers were good books.

MISS D. HERZ pointed out that specialists often wanted books on other than their own fields, and in these cases it was very important for them to have the books on approval. This was quite impossible in the case of American books. Suggestions made to the American Library to provide facilities for exhibiting American books so that they might be inspected had not materialised. The CHAIRMAN thought that the American Library seemed the obvious solution. MR. A. E. CUMMINS said that Dr. Waters of the American Embassy had helped the Chemical Society in this respect and he might be willing to help others too.

PROFESSOR R. S. HUTTON suggested that we owed a great deal of gratitude to Messrs. H. K. Lewis. He also paid tribute to some of the leading booksellers in this country for the way in which they had helped to procure American literature without making much profit. The difficulties of getting American publications were quite independent of paper shortage, and Professor Hutton suggested that these could be avoided. Regarding the labour shortage, the fact that the Ministry of Labour were advertising specially to recruit labour for the trade was a hopeful sign. The CHAIRMAN endorsed Professor Hutton's tribute to Messrs. Lewis.

MR. H. L. JACKSON expressed his thanks to Aslib for having been asked to the Conference, and to Professor Hutton and the Chairman for their tributes to his own firm (H. K. Lewis and Company, Ltd.), and to other booksellers. He thought Miss Ditmas' paper a very good account of the position. The book shortage was most acute in the educational field. The labour shortage was so serious that printers usually concluded their estimates with a clause stating that a five to six months' wait might be necessary before proofs could be sent. Orders had to be given so long beforehand that books were sold out before they were published. Publishers' associations and other organisations had sent resolutions to the authorities concerned, but without success. He suggested, therefore, that it would be better to send a deputation with a resolution rather than submit a resolution passed by this Conference.

MR. E. N. SIMONS referred to the printing position as it affected the writer of books. This entailed a curious psychological problem. One of his own books had been in the publishers' hands for two years before it was published, and when it appeared it was out of date. In one case alterations had to be pasted into 300 copies of a book to bring it up to date.

MR. W. R. LE FANU said that the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons at Melbourne had found it impossible to order new British books with any hope of obtaining them, owing to the delay in the mail and the shortage of supply here. They had entrusted the Royal College of Surgeons of England with the ordering of British surgical publications for them. MISS L. G. THOMERSON mentioned that the Federation of Master Printers in Australia had sought, through the Library Association, to order books in this country for a Memoria Library to Printers. Out of the 300 books ordered only eight were obtainable.

The CHAIRMAN said that in India the effect of the book shortage was grim. Not many books were being produced in India which, therefore, depended considerably on Britain and foreign countries. The question of import licences was very difficult. War-time restrictions in that country were worse than in Great Britain. Until quite recently American books could not be imported at all. Contrary to his expectations, he had found that the standards of education at some Indian universities were very high. There were 42,000 students at Calcutta University, and the shortage of books was terrible. *Nature* was now publishing papers which would not have been included otherwise, so that they might reach the reading public. Research centres were being set up in India on the lines of the D.S.I.R., but research men could not get books. This was most discouraging for men of science. Something would have to be done. Now, import restrictions on American books having been lifted, Americans would get in first. Most British publishers preferred to sell their books here rather than go to the trouble of sending them overseas. Quite a number of publishers, however, did help and insisted on keeping a certain number of books for export abroad. Government departments had helped by giving licences for more paper for special issues of periodicals for export. But the reason put forward was "trade purposes." *Nature* had a waiting list of British individuals and institutions. In some cases, first class institutions in this country could not get copies, whilst any individual in South America could obtain a copy. This form of control should be abolished and the matter left to the discretion of the editor.

Miss B. SCHAFER reported that her firm (B.X. Plastics, Ltd.), had wished to subscribe to a certain technical periodical, but the subscription was refused. She was, however, advised to get this periodical through a news agent. Why was it impossible to order direct?

Mr. B. M. HEADICAR said that out of an order for 400 books given recently 133 had been out of print. The publishers, in reply to enquiries about new editions, said that they would publish new editions if they could be given a guarantee that they would sell. If this could be done the shortage might be alleviated. The Inter-Allied Book Centre had received scores of books from Dominion forces. If it was found that there was no copy of any of these in the British Museum, a copy was deposited there. Mr. Headicar went on to say that the amount received for publications in this country had increased tremendously (from 9 to 14 million pounds). 90 per cent. of the books published were printed on paper manufactured in this country, and the paper shortage ought to come to an end soon. It should be found possible to make arrangements for books which had gone out of print to be reprinted. The CHAIRMAN thought Mr. Headicar's views too optimistic. Sales had gone up because people bought more books, being unable to spend their money on other things. Even school books were found on the general market rather than reserved for schools, and sold readily. The Government had requested publishers and printers to distribute as much type as possible. A large number of books, therefore, could not be reprinted because the type no longer existed. Mr. E. N. SIMONS said he had heard on good authority that the paper allocation would be increased in November. The Chairman replied that the labour situation, not the shortage of paper, was the crux of the matter.

Mr. B. FULLMAN thought that one of the difficulties of reprinting was that the number of copies required was too small. The only way of overcoming this would be to establish a subsidy fund. Some bodies might be prepared to contribute.

Miss A. M. MOSTEL emphasised the serious position arising from the shortage of text books for external students. They had no notes from lectures to refer to, such as were available to internal students. This was all the more serious as large numbers of the Forces would not be able to return to the universities, but might wish to continue their studies externally. The CHAIRMAN said this matter was being considered by the services, and liaisons had been established to alleviate the book shortage for those in the Forces wishing to take up external studies.

Mr. L. C. PATRICK enquired whether there was any mechanism for finding out whether a book when "out of print" at the publishers could still be obtained at booksellers. An order for a number of reference books was sent to the publishers, who replied that they were "out of print"; nevertheless, one bookseller was able to supply. The Chairman said that there was no centralised mechanism. Reference must be made to booksellers' advertisements.

Mr. D. C. HENRIK JONES said that the matter was being considered by the Library Association, and it was hoped that a solution might be found.

Mr. C. J. GOLLEDGE gave as an additional reason for the book shortage, the shortage of space everywhere.

The CHAIRMAN then closed the discussion, and invited opinions on the form the resolution was to take. Miss Ditmas read the amended form of the resolution.

Replying to a question put by Mr. E. J. CARTER, the Chairman said that, if the Conference decided to send a deputation, it ought to be sent to the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Carter suggested that a rider might be added to the resolution, to the effect that labour was the essential problem. Professor Hutton thought that action ought to be taken by Aslib, but that it might be advisable to leave it to the Council to decide on the proper ways and means.

It was proposed (from the Chair) that:

"This Conference suggests that the Council take definite action in connection with the effect of the shortage of books, either as a deputation to the Ministry of Labour or any other Ministry which the Council decides upon or to put it in the form of a resolution." The Conference unanimously agreed to this procedure.

The meeting concluded with a cordial expression of thanks to Miss Ditmas for her paper.

Social Occasions

Thanks to the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Aslib was once again able to hold a conversazione on the Friday evening preceding the formal opening of the Conference. About 150 members and guests were present, and there was plenty of evidence that they welcomed this opportunity for meeting friends and for seeking out representatives of organisations with whom they wished to make contacts.

Although this was the first of the post-war Conferences, conditions had not yet sufficiently returned to normal to make a residential conference possible. A compromise was reached by arranging that luncheon and tea should be available in the main building of the Polytechnic, a few minutes away from the Polytechnic Extension building where the Conference itself was held. A tribute must be paid to the efficiency of the Polytechnic catering arrangements; in these days of slow and difficult restaurant meals these amenities were greatly appreciated by the members. In the Extension building itself a lounge was available on Sunday, and it was here that members gathered after the close of the Conference proper in order to welcome the representatives of the Fédération Internationale de Documentation who had just arrived in England from the Netherlands and France. After the perils and distresses of war it was with heartfelt enthusiasm that we welcomed Dr. J. Alingh Prins, the President of the F.I.D., Mr. F. Donker Duyvis, the General Secretary, Mr. P. C. P. Huysers, the Assistant Secretary, and Dr. Steggerda, Director of the Nederlandsch Instituut voor Documentatie en Registratuur, also M. and Mme E. de Grolier, the Secretaries of the French branch of the F.I.D. and editors of the *Revue du Livre*. In the short time available, Aslib was able to hear something of the conditions in the Netherlands and France, and to realise with pleasure that, in spite of all handicaps, the spirit of the F.I.D. and the service of documentation had remained alive. A set of the *F.I.D. Communicationes* had been brought to England, and with this reopening of communications it was hoped that those who had, under the guidance of the British Society for International Bibliography and the British Standards Institution, encouraged the development of the Universal Decimal Classification in Great Britain would now be able to check their efforts with the work of the international organisation. In many other fields of documentation in which Aslib is also interested this first renewal of contacts with our European friends marked the beginning of a new era of growth and reconstruction.

The General Secretary's survey of the year was given in a short talk on Sunday afternoon in the Conference Hall. Following the precedent set by many associations at the close of hostilities, the General Secretary briefly reviewed Aslib's experiences during the war and, for the benefit of new members, recapitulated the rapid growth that had been made during that period. The dislocation to special information services that would result from war conditions had been vividly foreseen by Aslib as far back as 1938, and in July, 1939, Sir William Beveridge, then President of Aslib, approached an official in the Ministry of Labour to ascertain whether suggestions for the co-ordination of the activities of Special Libraries could be brought to the notice of the Government. The substance of the memorandum then prepared was printed in the September, 1939, issue of *Aslib Information*. No encouragement was received, however, and the war broke out before any further steps could be taken.

In 1939 Aslib occupied two rooms, one very small, at 31, Museum Street, and the normal staff was one full-time assistant besides the General Secretary, together with the help of one more untrained clerical worker. Some plans had been made for evacuation, if necessary, and a few records had been sent into the country, but it was soon evident that if Aslib were to play any useful part it must remain in London. The 1939 Conference was cancelled at short

notice, but papers, which in most cases had been already prepared, were issued in the 1939 report.

As the effects of the war became more noticeable it was necessary to decrease the staff, and from June to November, 1940, Miss Pratt-Barlow and the General Secretary together ran the office. The Battle of Britain and the succeeding night raids made office routine more and more difficult, and in November, 1940, Miss Pratt-Barlow left to take up a job in the information section of a Government department. The General Secretary carried on with the help of the office cleaner, Mr. Start, then 78 years old, who came to the rescue, acting as office boy and general help throughout those difficult months. Transport became so slow that the General Secretary took most of the work home and only came to the office twice a week, but throughout this difficult period the issue of the *Book-List* and the *Bulletin* was maintained and plans to deal with the scarcity of foreign periodicals were being actively developed.

In May, 1941, the services of a junior clerical worker were obtained, and shortly afterwards the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Royal Society was secured for a survey of the position regarding the import of European periodicals. Mrs. Waller undertook the initial organisation of the survey, in which she was helped by Mrs. Simon, who afterwards continued to give invaluable help to Aslib. As most people know, the outcome of the survey of the European periodicals was the inauguration of the Aslib Microfilm Service, which started in the spring of 1942. Aslib's own growing activities were reflected in the fact that Miss Bayes and Miss Marshall both joined the staff that year. Miss Marshall came originally to help with the survey of the Russian periodicals and the production of the Guide which was undertaken for the British Council; she stayed on to help with subsequent war-time guides and latterly to work on the abridged edition of the English translation of the Universal Decimal Classification. Miss Marshall left Aslib in 1944, but continues her work on the U.D.C. under the British Standards Institution.

1943 and 1944 saw much increase in the work of the information services and in special jobs for the British Council. It was at this period also that the special emergency courses of training in special librarianship were started. The Conferences themselves, though non-resident, had been restarted in 1942. By this time, even though the use of another room had been obtained, the further necessary increases in staff made the Aslib office unbearably overcrowded, and it was with great relief that a move was made to Bloomsbury Street in December. Aslib had been exceedingly fortunate in that, beyond a few broken windows, its office had suffered no direct bomb damage, though the neighbouring building had been gutted by fire, and the district had suffered much from high explosives.

The General Secretary's survey of the war years was rounded off with a reference to Aslib's recognition by the Government in 1944 and its present status as a grant-aided organisation through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. At the present rate of growth it would not be long before Aslib had reached the limits of accommodation available at 52, Bloomsbury Street. It was greatly to be hoped that the next move would be to premises which would not only provide adequate accommodation for the staff but would also include a room large enough for members to meet for informal discussions of mutual problems and for a library.

For a more detailed summary of the current year's activities the General Secretary referred the delegates to the Report of the Year's Work (see pages 12 to 14), which had already been circulated to all attending the Conference.

Report of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting

The Twentieth Annual General Meeting of members and associate members was held at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 15th September, 1945, at the Portland Hall, Litte Tichfield Street, London, W.1.

Present: One hundred and twenty-seven members and associate members were present.

Chairman: Sir Frederic Kenyon, K.C.B., G.B.E. (President of the Association) acted as Chairman of the meeting.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting those present stood in silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. E. Lancaster-Jones, late Hon. Treasurer of Aslib and Vice-Chairman of its Council, who had died on September 9th, 1945. The General Secretary was asked to convey a message of sympathy to his widow.

ITEM I. **Minutes of the last General Meeting**

The Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting, having been printed and circulated in the Report of the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Conference, 1944, were taken as read. It was agreed unanimously that they should be confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

ITEM II. **Audited Statement of Accounts, 1944-45**

The audited statement of accounts, which had already been circulated, was presented by the acting Hon. Treasurer, Miss I. Shrigley. She drew attention to the fact that the past year had been very important financially, and members of the Association would be glad to see that in this first year of the Government grant administered through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Aslib had qualified for the substantial sum of £1,000 through the increase of the grant-earning subscriptions to the level of £1,500. Mr. R. L. Sheppard drew attention to the fact that a sum of $6,000 had been paid by the Rockefeller Foundation to Aslib according to the Foundation's printed accounts for 1944. No mention of any corresponding sum appeared in the circulated Aslib accounts. The Hon. Treasurer explained that this sum had been paid to a separate account on behalf of the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals and that the figures would appear in the report of BUCOP to be included in the printed Report of the Aslib Proceedings.* The motion for the adoption of the accounts was then put to the meeting and carried.

ITEM III. **Election of Auditors**

It was proposed by Mr. B. Fullman and seconded by Mr. Lawton, that Messrs. West and Drake should be re-elected Auditors to the Association until the next Annual General Meeting. The proposal was carried unanimously.

ITEM IV. **Election of Council**

At the request of the Chairman the General Secretary explained that under Article 25 of the Articles of Association, one-third of the members of Council retired in rotation, but were eligible for re-election if sufficient vacancies remained after the election of freshly nominated candidates. The retiring members were: Mr. R. Brightman, Sir David Chadwick, Mr. G. Ellis Flack, Miss Mizpah Gilbert, Professor R. S. Hutton, Mr. C. le Maistre, Mr. E. R. McColvin, Mr. J. G. Pearce, Mr. A. F. Ridley and Miss I. Shrigley.

One place on the Council had been unfilled during the past session, one member (Miss E. W. Parker) had resigned owing to pressure of work; three members (Miss J. Barton, Mr. O. F. Brown and Mr. R. H. Hill) had been co-opted during the year to replace representatives of important bodies, and one member (Mr. E. Lancaster-Jones) had died. The full membership of the Council was thirty and the vacancies were sixteen.

* See pages 102–103.

There were six newly nominated candidates whose claim to the vacant places received priority. These were :

Professor E. N. da C. Andrade, F.R.S., F.Inst.P., Ph.D., D.Sc.
Mr. B. Fullman, B.Sc., A.R.I.C. (British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association)
Mr. L. M. Harrod, F.L.A. (Islington Public Libraries)
Mr. Francis Hughes (Marine Instruments, Ltd.)
Mr. C. B. Oldman, B.A. (British Museum)
Mr. G. Woledge, B.A., A.L.A. (British Library of Political and Economic Science)

To these should be added the three co-opted during the year who presented themselves for re-election. These nine candidates were, therefore, first presented for election and were unanimously accepted.

The remaining seven vacancies were to be filled from the retiring members, two of whom did not present themselves for re-election, i.e. Miss Gilbert and Mr. Ridley. This left seven vacancies to be filled from eight members. The election could be made by postal ballot, by the increase of the Council to thirty-one (under Clause 29 of the Articles), or by authorising the Council to make their own selection. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Agard Evans and seconded by Mr. J. J. Eaton, that the Council should be increased to thirty-one, on the understanding that the whole procedure governing the election of the Council, as set out in the Articles of Association, should be carefully considered by the Council and, if necessary, proposals for their revision should be submitted to the members. This resolution was approved. Mr. Gollege proposed that the Council should be reduced to eleven, but the proposal was not seconded. A strong wish was expressed that the elections should be made more effective through a greater liberty of choice being left to the Annual Meeting.

ITEM V. **Election of President and Honorary Officers**

On the proposal of Mr. Edward Carter it was unanimously agreed that Sir Frederic Kenyon, K.C.B., G.B.E., should be re-elected as President for the ensuing year. It was proposed by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Simons, that Mr. T. M. Herbert be elected Hon. Secretary of the Association. It was proposed by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. le Maistre, that Miss I. Shrigley be elected Hon. Treasurer. Both these appointments were unanimously approved by the meeting.

ITEM VI. **Report of the Year's Work of Aslib**

The General Secretary drew attention to the Report of the Year's Work, now printed in full on pages 12–15, which had been circulated to all attending the Conference. The chief points of this report were summarised and it was then presented to the meeting and adopted unanimously.

The Proceedings were then closed.

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION BUREAUX.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1945.

Dr. 1943/4 £	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	1945 £ s. d.
	To General Expenditure—		
1,393	Salaries	1,819 15 0	
137	Rent, Lighting and Telephone	370 10 7	
280	Printing, Stationery, Postage and Office Expenses	469 6 3	
2	Insurance	2 18 8	
5	Reference Books	10 2 7	
6	Fire Watching	3 5 0	
8	Audit Fee	8 8 0	
7	Depreciation of Furniture and Fittings	13 4 1	
			2,997 10 2
	„ Printing of Publications—		
87	Book-List	120 2 9	
20	Bulletin	19 15 3	
—	Wright's Manual	162 1 9	
16	(*Other Publications*)	— — —	
			301 19 9
77	„ Work for British Council		300 0 0
	„ Conference :		
21	General Expenses	158 10 0	
151	Printing of Reports	200 9 6	
			358 19 6
	„ Library Training Course—		
356	Lecturers' Fees and accommodation		118 13 0
2,566			3,777 2 5
	„ Balance, Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet		241 13 0
£2,566			£4,018 15 5

1943/4 £	INCOME.	£ s. d.	1945 £ s. d.
	By General Income—		
1,106	Members' Subscriptions and Donations		1,627 11 6
	„ Sales of Publications—		
178	Book-List	142 4 9	
54	War Time Guides	13 4 3	
—	Wrights Manual of Special Library Technique	75 4 8	
—	Journal of Documentation	11 10 10	
9	Other Publications	26 2 6	
			268 7 0
	„ Conference		
112	Fees	209 12 6	
89	Sale of Reports	143 13 5	
			353 5 11
414	„ Library Training Course Fees		309 15 0
	„ Grants—		
75	British Council	300 0 0	
—	Department of Scientific Industrial Research	1,000 0 0	
			1,300 0 0
253	„ Advisory Fees from A.M.S.		139 16 11
4	„ Net Income from Translators' Panel		7 7 6
—	„ Sundry Receipts		12 11 7
2,294			4,018 15 5
272	„ (*Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income*)		
£2,566			£4,018 15 5

BALANCE SHEET — 30TH JUNE, 1945.

Dr.

LIABILITIES.

1943/4		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1945
£				
84	BANK OVERDRAFT		98 3 7	
	SUNDRY CREDITORS :			
312	Current Expenses	482 7 10		
50	Subscriptions & Grant received in advance	101 5 0		
			583 12 10	
	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			
	Surplus for the year to date	241 13 0		
	Less: Balance Overdrawn as at 30th June, 1944	153 11 3		
100 −154			88 1 9	
£292			£769 18 2	

Cr.

ASSETS

1943/4		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1945
£				
8	CASH IN HAND		7 19 11	
	SUNDRY DEBTORS			
124	General	489 7 3		
67	A.M.S.	50 11 0		
3	Deposit	7 0 0		
			546 18 3	
	FURNITURE AND FITTINGS			
90	As at 30th June, 1944	90 0 0		
	Additions	138 4 1		
		228 4 1		
	Less Depreciation	13 4 1		
			215 0 0	
£292			£769 18 2	

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION BUREAUX.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Association's affairs, according to the information given to us and as shown by the books of the Association.

Sardinia House, 52, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.
26th July, 1945.

(Signed) WEST & DRAKE, *Chartered Accountants.*

REPORTS

THE ASLIB MICROFILM SERVICE

The Aslib Microfilm Service was started in 1942 in order to make available in microfilm or in enlargements from microfilm those journals reaching this country from enemy and enemy occupied countries which would otherwise be inaccessible to the majority of research workers. For security reasons no publicity could be given to this line of work, though Aslib members were kept currently informed through the Bulletin. Gradually the facilities offered by A.M.S. became known among more than 300 scientific institutions and research stations, some of them not Aslib members, in all parts of the world.

The whole story of the Aslib Microfilm Service in war-time cannot be given here, though it will be written in due course. The Service rapidly outgrew its original scope and consequently also its earlier quarters in the Science Museum. By courtesy of the authorities concerned, A.M.S. moved to the Victoria and Albert Museum in April, 1943. Throughout its existence it has been under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. H. Desch, F.R.S., and the Direction of Mrs. Lucia Moholy, A.R.P.S. The technical equipment has been made available through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Royal Society. Financial support was received from the Royal Society and from British industry.

During the year under review the work of A.M.S. covered the following activities :

1.—Microfilming scientific and technical periodicals published in Germany and countries occupied by Germany. Until June 30th, 1945, three negatives were taken of each journal; one for the use of research institutions supplied by A.M.S. direct, two for use in the United States. Only one master negative was required for the United States after that date.

2.—Gaps in routine deliveries and requests for earlier issues were covered through close co-operation with some fifty research libraries up and down the country.

3.—Microfilms of issues which never reached Britain were as far as possible secured from abroad.

4.—The assault on Germany and the dislocation and final destruction of German publishing industries resulted—as had been anticipated—in a falling off in current issues.

5.—Substantial consignments of 1940 publications had been held in allied countries and arrived in Great Britain a few months after the end of the war—too late, unfortunately, to be microfilmed in bulk.

6.—Microfilming of scientific and technical periodicals from China lent to A.M.S. by courtesy of the Science Department of the British Council.

7.—Microfilming upon request of scientific and technical periodicals from U.S.S.R.

8.—Supply of copies from A.M.S. master negatives in positive microfilm or paper enlargement. A.M.S. library of master negatives from journals of which the originals are in short supply now contains approximately 14,000 items.

9.—Microfilming of British periodicals for despatch to China on behalf of the British Council. This work, which had started in June, 1943, has maintained a vital link with China at a period when transport of original periodicals was either impossible or subject to interminable delays. It was, of course, carried on in full agreement between the British Council and the publishers concerned.

10.—Copies in microfilm or paper enlargement of individual articles or extracts from varied literature needed for private study and research. In many cases it was necessary to conduct extensive research before the extracts required could be identified and located. It appears that this particular side of the work would be capable of considerable expansion in peace-time, once ambiguities as to the copyright position can be cleared up. It may then prove a valuable service to workers in the field who are out of touch with library resources or who cannot carry with them a heavy weight of reference material.

11.— Microfilms of books which are out of print—upon the request of the publishers concerned. Any such work was undertaken on the lines of the agreement with the Publishers' Association drawn up in 1944.

12.—Compilation and publication of Contents Lists, recording—under main scientific headings—details of subject matter in journals from abroad of which master negatives have been retained.

13.—Microfilming of old books, manuscripts, catalogues, etc., in British repositories on behalf of the American Council of Learned Societies.

14.—Microfilming of confidential material on behalf of H.M. and U.S. Governments—a very substantial line of work in the first few years—gradually decreased with the progress of the war in Europe and was finally discontinued by the end of June, 1945.

15.—A.M.S. continued to act as the centre of information on all matters of documentary reproduction. Its activities in this direction included the organisation of a successful Conference on June 1st-2nd, 1945. Papers were given on documentation services, methods of reproduction, various uses of microfilm in particular, and on microfilm reading machines. A special " Brains Trust " meeting discussed copyright laws in their application to documentary reproduction.

16.—In July, 1945, A.M.S. was able to demonstrate to representatives of hospitals and the medical profession the reader by which books could be projected on the ceiling for use by disabled persons. The engineering model of this reader had been brought to England by Mr. Eugene Power, of Projected Books, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan. Practical steps are now

being considered by the Guild of Hospital Librarians, the British Red Cross Society and other authorities with a view to setting up an organisation for the distribution of projectors and films to those needing them in this country.

The fact that the establishment and development of A.M.S. were so closely connected with war-time demands will mean that its work must undergo very considerable modifications in times of peace. While it had been apparent for some time that much of the basic work would come to an end, the demand for microfilms from British libraries has, on the other hand, not yet fully developed partly owing to the inadequate supply of reading apparatus in this country.

It is too early to say under what conditions A.M.S. will continue in times of peace, though it can be predicted with confidence that the experience gained during the war will not be lost. The rehabilitation of devastated European libraries presents one field where work of immediate urgency could be undertaken. There is, furthermore, little doubt that the scholar and the library of the future will make increasing use of documentary reproduction in one form or another. Aslib was one of the first organisations in this country to draw the attention of librarians to the potential value of the newly developed technique, and the Aslib Microfilm Service was a practical proof of that interest, which will continue to keep in touch with all the new developments in this field.

At the next Annual General Meeting of Aslib a consolidated statement of A.M.S. accounts, covering the years 1942–45, will be presented to the members.

BRITISH UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS

First Annual Report of the Council for the year 1944–45

This report, which covers the period 1st April, 1944 to 31st March, 1945, represents a full year's work by Mr. Besterman, Editor and Executive officer, and ten months' by his assistant, Dr. Loewenberg. No other appointments have been made. Several persons were given a trial, but under war-time conditions the choice has been so limited that none of them proved suitable. The Editor also found that the time spent in revising the work of assistants other than Dr. Loewenberg (who is most painstaking and accurate), so much cut down his own output that on balance there was little or no total gain. It was, therefore, decided to abandon the search for a second assistant and to reconsider the question of staff when the volume of more mechanical work increases at a later stage.

Some assistance, however, has been forthcoming. Mr. Beharrell, of the British Museum, files the slips, having undertaken to do this work in his spare time for a moderate fee. The voluntary work done by Mrs. Besterman has been a great help. She types all revised and complicated slips and a great number of others. In one way or another she has prepared several thousand slips.

The number of slips written and locations recorded during the year is as follows :

Main entries	44,512
Cross references	23,302
Total slips	67,814
Locations	74,660

These figures are net, after deduction of all duplicates, etc. They represent, generally speaking, *completed* work (apart, of course, from new locations). The aim has been to file away each slip in a condition in which it can be sent to the printer without further attention. This is important, since if it were necessary to rehandle all the slips at any stage, it would mean many additional months of work. Thus, to revise 100,000 slips would take, allowing only one minute per slip, over 200 eight-hour days. Considerable pains are, therefore, taken to check all doubtful entries at the time they are written, so far as this can be done without unreasonable expenditure of time. Many entries have been checked at the British Museum from the periodicals themselves. The entries for all British periodicals up to 1800 have been carefully collated with those of the various lists in the *Cambridge Bibliography of English literature* and with the special Bodleian catalogue. Very many American and other periodicals have been checked against the new edition of Gregory's *Union List of Serials*, a copy of which is frequently consulted. And, of course, the comparison of the British Museum entries with those in the *Union Catalogue of the . . . University Libraries,* which complement each other in many ways, has yielded a large and invaluable mass of material. All Dr. Loewenberg's slips pass through the Editor's hands before being filed. In addition, Mr. Beharrell has detailed instructions to look out, when filing, for various types of possible error.

At the same time too much must not be expected. In the nature of things, the great majority of the entries will be at second-hand and derived from independent sources. In such circumstances the highest level of bibliographical accuracy can be attained only after successive revisions.

The progress made in the first year has been extremely satisfactory. Mr. Besterman's original estimates were considered somewhat optimistic, but they have, in fact, been exceeded by a little over 10 per cent. It is right to point out, however, that a good many slips, included in the totals set out above, were written by Mr. Besterman before the date of his formal appointment.

The " transcription " of the entries for the British Museum general periodicals (for the most part with P.P. press marks) has now been completed, and that of the *Union Catalogue of the . . . University Libraries* nearly so (apart from the supplementary material on file in the National Central Library). The Editor is now turning to the periodicals issued by societies, etc. (mostly

with Ac. and R. Ac. pressmarks in the British Museum), and to miscellaneous sources. This means that the peak in the rate of production has been reached and that from now on there will be a diminution in the rate of progress. When the stage now entered upon has been completed the time will have come for the printing of the preliminary check-list. While it is, of course, impossible as yet to give a definite date, the Council are not unhopeful that it may be possible to begin the setting about the middle of 1946. The precise moment and method will, of course, require very careful consideration. It has been decided to send the Editor to the United States before then to get the benefit of the experience of the H. W. Wilson Company, Miss Gregory and others in this important matter.

The Editor's time has been almost wholly spent on the work described above, but a few minor activities will prove useful later on. Thus, a number of library catalogues of periodicals has been collected. Friendly contacts have been established with the National Library of Ireland and the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association, which have local union catalogues in hand. No attempt has yet been made to invite the co-operation of libraries, but casually, in the course of correspondence and otherwise, numerous promises have already been received.

Two meetings of the Technical consultative committee, of which Mr. J. A. Wilks has been appointed chairman, have been held and consultations have taken place by post. Minor adjustments of the rules have been agreed.

A statement of the receipts and expenditures during the year 1st April, 1944 to 31st March, 1945, is set out below:

Income			
April 28th, 1944.—Grant from Rockefeller Foundation ..		£500	0 0
October 3rd, 1944.—Grant from Rockefeller Foundation ..		1,000	0 0
		£1,500	0 0
Expenditure			
Salaries		£1,151	2 10
Slips £103 10 0			
Duplicating and stationery 25 16 5			
Books 26 3 4			
Postage 2 14 6			
Miscellaneous 2 15 7			
		160	19 10
		£1,312	2 8
Excess of income over expenditure		£187	17 4

The Council are indebted to a number of persons, foremost among whom are the Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, without whose generous guarantee of £14,000 nothing could have been done. The Council are grateful, not only for the financial assistance given by the Rockefeller Trustees, but also for the keen interest they and their officers are taking in all the Council are doing. Mr. John Marshall's visit during the year was much appreciated. The Trustees of the British Museum have also rendered invaluable service by placing a room at the Museum—where spare accommodation is all too little—at the disposal of Mr. Besterman and his staff, and by helping in many other ways. The Council are most appreciative of the skilled and energetic way in which Mr. Besterman has, in spite of many difficulties, expedited the compilation of the Catalogue. The thanks of the Council are extended also to Mrs. Besterman, who has voluntarily given much help, to Dr. Loewenberg, who has ably supported Mr. Besterman, and to Mr. Beharrell for much appreciated help in filing the slips.

THE NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

In addition to the extension of its services to urban, county, university and other libraries through the inter-lending system and from its own depleted stock, the Library has continued to give increased assistance to Government Departments and to a large number of research institutions and commercial and industrial bodies conducting specialised work during the war. In this work Aslib has given much appreciated help on enquiries involving special scientific and technical knowledge.

The stock of the Library, which was reduced by enemy action in 1941 from 176,961 to 72,612, had increased to 88,760 by the end of February, 1945.

The number of books issued on loan from or through the Library (including those to adult classes) totalled 57,672, a figure within about a thousand of the total issues of the last pre-war year. This does not include the issues from the Scottish and Irish Central Libraries, which amounted to 13,643 and 11,136 respectively.

The number of books lent by libraries co-operating in the regional systems to other libraries in their own system was 77,549, as against 50,031 in the last pre-war year. In addition, 11,630 books were lent by them to libraries in other regional systems through the National Central Library.

The number of books issued by the National Central Library to university libraries (excluding those issued to adult class departments) was 4,580, a great increase over the figure

of 3,538 for the last pre-war year. The university libraries have also taken their share in lending to other libraries, to the extent of 7,151 books in 1944–45.

The group of " outliers " associated with the National Central Library now comprises 137 special libraries as well as 23 London Borough libraries which have undertaken to lend books to libraries outside London. The total number of books lent by these outlier libraries was 8,451.

The number of entries in the union catalogues at the end of February, 1945, was 1,942,851, irrespective of 1,544,000 entries in the London Public Libraries Union Catalogue and those in the Welsh Bureaux (791,610) and in Scotland (95,337); a grand total for England, Wales and Scotland of little short of four and a half millions.

The bibliographical material in the Bureau of American Bibliography, to which reference is made on page 36, has continued to be of increasing value, as access to information about American publications has become increasingly difficult. The Library's part in securing a greater number of books on America for British public libraries has also been referred to above (page 37).

Among a large number of books and periodicals presented to the Library are many nineteenth-century sets of journals on scientific and other subjects, and an almost complete set of the publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, presented by the Reading Public Library to replace a set lost by enemy action.

Any report on the National Central Library would be far from complete without a very warm tribute to Dr. Luxmoore Newcombe, C.B.E., its first Librarian, who retired through ill-health on 31st December, 1944. Dr. Newcombe became Librarian in 1926 when the institution was still the Central Library for Students. Since its reorganisation as the National Central Library in 1930 Dr. Newcombe has guided and developed the Library and brought it to its present position as the acknowledged centre of the interlending system of the country and of all co-operative effort between British libraries—an outstandingly successful task which could only have been achieved by the unfailing patience, tact and kindliness which he has so consistently shown in his dealings with libraries and with the innumerable other bodies with which the work has brought him into contact. The Library has suffered further serious loss by the appointment of its Sub-Librarian and Head of its Information Department, Mr. J. H. P. Pafford, M.A., F.L.A., as Goldsmiths' Librarian of the University of London. Dr. Newcombe was succeeded on 1st January, 1945, by Mr. R. H. Hill, M.A., F.L.A., Secretary of the Bodleian Library.

THE INTER-ALLIED BOOK CENTRE

The work of the Inter-Allied Book Centre has proceeded apace since its establishment in Salisbury Square. So far 400,000 volumes have been received at the Centre, and 80,000 of these are directly the result of the appeal, of which about 90,000 copies have been sent out to Universities, Societies and their individual members. All these books have been classified and arranged on the shelves, and an endeavour is being made to increase the rate of reception so that at least a million volumes will be in stock by the end of March, 1946.

The formal official opening of the Centre by Mr. R. A. Butler, the then Minister of Education, took place on 28th September, 1944, in the presence of a distinguished gathering, representative of Universities, Scientific and Learned Societies, and representatives of Allied Governments. Speeches of great interest were made by Dr. Arundell Esdaile, President of the Library Association, Dr. Sommerfelt, Chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Conference of the Allied Ministers of Education, and Professor Gilbert Murray.

The actual work of allocation and distribution will not take place till about the Autumn of 1946, with the exception of books required by the British Museum, which has so far had over 7,000 volumes. A large collection of books suitable for juveniles, derived from various sources, and numbering 5,186, was sent to Malta for the use of the children. It has been agreed that war-damaged libraries in this country shall be given priority in the distribution of books, the National Central Library following the British Museum. A very large number of scientific periodicals has been received, and will undoubtedly be in great demand by libraries on the Continent. In many cases societies have presented complete sets of their journals and transactions, and many long runs, more or less complete, have been received from individual members of societies. In some cases twenty to thirty sets of a periodical will be available for distribution. Many of these are quite unobtainable by ordinary means of purchase. A considerable number of periodicals and technical and scientific books has been received from large industrial concerns, several of which are members of Aslib. Such donations from different sources are gladly welcomed and appreciated, and they enable the Centre to complete long files of badly needed journals.

The Centre is working in close co-operation with the American Book Centre for War Devastated Libraries, which came into being on 1st April, 1945, with the idea of avoiding confusion and duplication of effort which seemed likely from the various agencies which had been formed, each with the object of assisting devastated libraries. Minutes and reports are exchanged so that unnecessary duplication, whether in the nature of enquiry or allocation, can be avoided.

Mr. Carter served on the Committee of the Inter-Allied Book Centre until July this year, and Mr. Woledge has now been appointed to succeed him. A time-table for the Centre has been drawn up, and every endeavour will be made to complete the intake of books and their subsequent distribution by the end of 1946.

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